

## Sample Family Letter on Supporting Children to Keep Exploring Air Quality

*The following text can be used to create a letter home to families after the air quality exploration.*

Dear Families:

Today in math class we looked at air quality sensor maps and talked about how different color dots have different numbers that mean the air is safe or unsafe to breathe. Please follow up with your child by asking what they did in class today with the air quality maps. Take the time to listen to the questions your child has, and encourage them to keep noticing and wondering about the world. Do not worry if you cannot answer their questions, since for right now it's less important that you answer all their questions and more important that you encourage their curiosity. You might ask:

- What were those maps you were looking at in class today?
- What did the different dots on the map mean?
- What did you notice about the maps?
- Do you have any questions now about air quality?

Encouraging your child to ask questions about the world, and the ways that numbers represent actual *things* in the world, is a key part of their mathematics and scientific thinking development. The first science practice standard is “Ask Questions,” and the first mathematics practice standard is “Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.” By engaging children with their questions, curiosities, and ideas of how the world works, including how numbers in the world work, you are developing these important foundations for further mathematics and science learning.

Keep it up!