Dear Families,

We are eagerly looking forward to the time (hopefully soon) when we can be together again with you and your children! We hope that you are taking time to read the weekly newsletters from all of the classrooms that are posted on the West Haven Community House website. Each teaching team offers different suggestions and activities that are designed to help you extend your child’s learning experiences while you are at home together. Learning is a lifelong journey—have an exciting voyage with your child!

To go along with our transportation theme (see our May 18 and 25 Newsletters), this week we will be learning about things that fly. Look up in the air—airplanes, helicopters, rocket ships and hot air balloons are all fascinating ways for people to move! Help your child observe and talk about things that fly. If possible, drive by Tweed New Haven Airport in New Haven. Observe the airplanes on the runway, taking off and landing. You may see helicopters flying overhead (possibly from Sikorsky in Stratford, which manufactures them). This weekend, the space shuttle was launched—watch that exciting event! Use these experiences to have extended conversations with your child. Ask several questions, to extend their conversations and expand their vocabulary (for example: “What different parts of the plane do you see? Where do you think the helicopter’s going? Where would you like to go in an airplane?”) Have fun—the sky’s the limit!

More Suggestions for Learning at Home this Week

📚 **Literacy:** “There is no App to replace your lap!” Read together every day for at least 15 minutes to develop your child’s literacy skills! Suggested books for this week (can be found on YouTube):

- *Maisy Goes on a Plane* by L. Cousins
- *Harold the Helicopter* by L. Medved
- *On the Launch Pad* by M. Dahl

Our Letter of the Week is X. Make the letter X and help your child practice writing Xx. Make X’s using items your child finds (sticks, blocks, etc.) Have a treasure hunt (like pirates)! Bury a small “surprise” (a toy or some coins) in your backyard (or at the beach) and mark the spot with a letter X. Make a simple “treasure map,” then invite your child to find their “treasure.” When they find it, say, “X marks the spot!” Make X’s in the dirt or sand and use items your child finds (sticks, blocks, etc.) to create letters. Please continue to encourage your child to write their name (and other letters of the alphabet) every day!

🔢 **Math:** Make numbers 1-12 on small pieces of paper. Using the book, *On the Launch Pad* (found on You Tube), help your child count the items on each page of the book (12 stars, etc.). Invite your child to find the paper with the correct number of items they counted on each page. When you finish reading the book, have a “countdown,” holding up the numbers and counting backwards (“12, 11, 10,” etc.). After saying “1” say, “BLAST OFF” and let your child “fly” around the room like a rocket!

🎨 **Art:** Give your child a paper towel (or toilet paper roll), paper, markers and glue—invite them to create a rocket ship using the art materials. Using an empty water bottle, you can help your child create an airplane piggy bank! Find the directions for these and other fun art projects for children on Pinterest (preschool airplane crafts).

✈️ **Gross Motor:** Play “Airplane.” Have your child hold each end of a pool noodle (or other straight, soft object) straight in front of him/her, creating “wings” You may have to cut the pool noodle so your child can grasp each end. Call out “flying directions” (“fly fast, fly slowly, fly high, fly low, spin, etc.”)—enjoy watching your child “take off” and have fun!

Wash your hands, cover your sneezes and coughs, stay home and remember—we love you!

Miss Sheila    Miss Lydia    Miss Diana    Miss Jessica