Dear Parent:

In our classroom we are learning about animal adaptations with help from the PBS KIDS® series Wild Kratts. To begin our unit, we learned how animals have different physical characteristics that help them meet their needs and survive. For example, an elephant’s trunk helps it eat food and take a bath to cool down. Here are some ways you can explore more about this topic at home with your child.

Talk Like a Scientist!
To help your child learn and use important words, use “science words” as you talk about and explore animal adaptations.

| physical characteristic | adaptation | survive | observe | habitat |

Explore at Home.
• While you are getting your child ready for school, observe together how your hands work to tie shoes or button shirts. Ask: How do our hands help us survive?
• Compare feet with your child and ask, What are our feet adapted to do?
• Anytime you are outside with your child, observe together how our eyes and ears help us to get around in the world safely.

Watch Together.
The Kratt brothers investigate adaptations of animals in these videos:

Caribbean Sea! http://to.pbs.org/2bVS3JJ
Nosing Around http://to.pbs.org/2bFnyKH

As you view with your child, ask question such as:
• What physical characteristic is each animal using the most?
• What is the animal doing with that physical characteristic?
• How does that physical characteristic help the animal get food, hide, or survive (live) in that habitat?

Read Together.
Visit your local library to check out books that will help your child think and talk about animal adaptations. Recommendations include:
• Creature Features by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page
• Who Has These Feet? by Laura Hulber