Dear Parent:

In our classroom we are continuing to learn about animal adaptations with help from the PBS KIDS® series Wild Kratts. This week we learned how humans can design solutions to problems by mimicking how animals use their physical characteristics to survive and meet their needs. 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 vocabulary, use these words as you talk about and explore animal adaptations.

- predator
- prey
- powerful
- mimic

Explore at Home.

- As children are getting dressed to go outside, connect outdoor clothing to animals. Ask questions like these:
  - How did animals give us ideas about staying warm when it’s cold? (People put on warm fuzzy or furry coats to stay warm.)
  - How do animals give us ideas for staying dry on a rainy day? (We wear slippery clothing that makes rain run off like a duck’s feathers do.)

- If your child wears protective gear like a helmet or shin guards when riding a bike or playing a sport, make a connection to animals that have protective shells (e.g., turtles, armadillos, snails, clams). Ask questions like this:
  - How do people use the idea of a turtle’s hard shell to keep safe? (We put on gear with a hard shell to protect our head or our legs.)

Watch Together.

The Kratt brothers explore how people mimic snakes in this video clip.

- Snake Super Sense http://to.pbs.org/2c7Vg7X

Play Together.

- Aviva’s Powersuit Maker http://pbskids.org/wildkratts/games/power-suit-maker/

As you play with your child, ask questions like these:

- Why are you choosing that body part for the powersuit?
- What can the Kratt brother do with that animal power?
- How does that physical characteristic help the animal get food, hide from predators or prey, or survive?
- What adaptation helped the snake find its prey?
- How does the Kratt brother, Chris, mimic the snake to find his brother, Martin?