Dear Parent:

We have finished our unit on animal adaptations with help from the PBS KIDS® series *Wild Kratts*. This week we did an *experiment* to find out if some colors (white or black) make an ice cube melt more quickly or more slowly. We learned that the ice cube surrounded by dark colors melted more quickly, and we *concluded* that animals with dark fur stay warmer than animals with light-colored fur, and people wearing dark-colored clothing might stay warmer than people wearing light-colored clothing!

**Talk Like a Scientist.**

To help your child learn and use important vocabulary, use these words as you talk about and explore conducting an *experiment*:

- record
- conclude
- analyze
- data

**Explore at Home.**

- Try an experiment at home with clothing in the sun. Have your child wear all dark clothes and sit out in the sun for 10 minutes. *Record* together with your child how they feel at the beginning and end of the 10 minutes. Change clothes to all light-colored clothing and sit outside for another 10 minutes. *Record* how they feel at the beginning and end of the 10 minutes.

- Ask, *Which color soaked up more heat and made you feel hotter?*

**Watch Together.**

River otters have dark fur and stay active all winter. Watch these *Wild Kratt* videos to learn more about how animals use their physical features to meet their needs and survive.

- *Sledding Otter Style (river otters)* [http://to.pbs.org/2bH3g09](http://to.pbs.org/2bH3g09)
- *Wintertime Creature Powers!* [http://to.pbs.org/2c4kwOe](http://to.pbs.org/2c4kwOe)

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

- *What adaptations help the animals stay warm in winter?*
- *How does an otter’s coat keep it warm even when sledding on snow?*

**Read Together.**

Visit your local library to check out books that will help your child think and talk about animal adaptations. Recommendations include:

- *A Warm Winter Tail* by Carrie Pearson
- *What if You Had Animal Hair!?* by Sandra Markle