



## Introduction Letter

In the coming weeks we will be starting a unit called The History of Me. This unit is one of two that is part of the Bringing History Home grant that our district received. As part of this unit we are going to look at each child's personal history.

The unit introduces children to the concept of history as a story, and establishes student familiarity with documents and concepts of change between now and the past. By telling their own stories through pictures, maps, toys and various other articles from their lives, students may learn to perceive history as something fun and personally relevant.

The unit relies largely on sharing and class discussions. In the beginning the teachers will model discussion with their own story of how things have changed since they were children. The students will get a taste of long ago to compare with life today. We will examine sources, such as photos, letters, clothing and toys and teach the children how to ask thoughtful questions and participate in discussions.

As the unit progresses each student will place sources about his/her life into the baggie we have sent home. When the end of the unit comes the students will have the makings of their own histories.

In order to make this unit successful we are asking for your help in gathering and sending various sources to school (a list is included at the end of this letter). All items will be returned to you at the end of the unit and we will be very careful with the items, keeping them in each child's baggie. Please make sure that your child's belongings fit into the one baggie since we have very limited storage. We realize that there are many different sorts of families, and we have tried to be sensitive to this issue. Instead of using a birth certificate we are using a "Kindergarten Certificate". There are also questions on the family interview that relate to the parents. Please let your child's teacher know if you are uncomfortable in any way with answering any of the questions. Their purpose is to help your child learn history, not to put anyone on the spot.

We also understand that some children's past experiences may be frightening, or that foster and adopted children may have no keepsakes from the past. In these instances, please let us know and we will work with your family to provide alternative "artifacts" for your child and to avoid asking questions that could be upsetting to your child.

Thank you in advance for your help with this unit. We look forward to learning and celebrating the history of each child in our classes!

The Kindergarten Teachers



## Ideas for Objects to Include in Plastic Bag

(Due to classroom space limitations, all objects must be able to fit into the baggie or a small shoebox)

- ❖ Family Interview sheet, filled out (We encourage you to do this with your child.)
- ❖ Photo of child as an infant (under one year old) \*\*
- ❖ Photo of child as a toddler (1-3 years old) \*\*
- ❖ Photo of child's family
- ❖ A toy, book or artifact from when the child was a baby or toddler \*\*
- ❖ Letter or card family or child has received
- ❖ Article of baby clothing
- ❖ Photo of past or current home
- ❖ Photo of family on vacation or at play

\*\* If you do not have old photos of your child, but you have some of either a sibling or parent, please send instead.