

**Grade K:** Module 1: Unit 1

# Overview for Families

## Notes to Teacher:

Making connections between home and school is vitally important in supporting students' learning. The following suggestions and materials represent some of the ways you can support these connections during this unit.

### Suggestions:

- Copy the attached family letter and send it home with students after teaching Lesson 1 (this letter can be used as is or as a model). Consider having the letter translated for families whose first language is not English.
- Send home copies of any texts and/or materials for use with at-home activities. Example: Send home a copy of the “Talk and Listen” song or the “Play Today” poem.
- Encourage students to share any at-home learning with the class. They can do this orally or by sharing writing, pictures, or artifacts. Example: Consider providing time for students to share stories about playing at home with others.
- Depending on the needs of your students and the expectations of your school community, consider assigning additional homework. Examples: open-ended activities that help students read, think, talk, write, and ask questions about the topic instead of those that simply test students on their content knowledge (see suggested activities in the family letter).
- If using EL Education’s K–2 Reading Foundations Skills block, consider sending home a copy of the student decodable reader used each week.
- Below is an example letter to send home for this unit.

## Dear Family,

During Unit 1 of this module, your student will learn and practice behaviors for sharing and caring for classroom toys and interacting with peers. I am writing today to explain what your student will be learning, describe the activities that will support this learning, and suggest how to support this learning at home.

## What will your student be learning?

Students will begin to study the topic of toys and play with a focus on what people can do to make playing together fun. The learning will be focused on these ideas:

- How we take care of our classroom toys
- Reading stories to learn how to play together
- Practicing listening and speaking to each other in conversations
- Developing classroom commitments for playing together

Students will also practice these reading foundation skills:

- Learning the name, formation, and sound of many consonant and vowel letters
- Identifying and producing words that rhyme
- Concepts of print: reading from left to right, up and down, and pointing to each word as it is read aloud

## How will your student be learning?

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Throughout the unit, your student will read, think, listen, talk, write, and ask questions about the topic of what makes toys fun. Students will participate in these activities, among others, to build their literacy skills:

- Listening to the book *Llama Llama Time to Share* by Anna Dewdney read aloud
- Singing songs about playing together
- Engaging in conversations with classmates
- Playing with toys to practice sharing and taking care of materials
- Writing and drawing about playing together

## What can you do to support your student's learning at home?

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Here are a few activities that you can do at home with your student to support his or her learning:

- Ask your student to talk with you about this question: What can people do to make playing together fun?
- Play with a toy or game at home. Invite your student to model what it looks like to take care of others and materials when playing.
- Read the books and songs about toys and play sent home from school.
- Visit the local library with your student to read more books about toys and play.
- Practice rhyming words with the “at” or “ap” sound with your student.
- “Skywrite” with your student by drawing letters in the air with your finger while saying the name or sound of that letter.
- Point to words in text as you read them aloud.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss your student's learning further.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_(TEACHER NAME HERE)\_\_\_\_