

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.
- 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 a magnificent thing they made for home; stories of when they used specific tools to do a job at home; or when they showed initiative, collaboration, or perseverance.
- Take pictures of students creating, finishing, and revising their magnificent thing and post them in the room or hallway or send them home with invitations to the celebration in Lesson 13.
- Ask families to send in a picture or a drawing of a magnificent thing they have made at home with their student (e.g., art work, a meal, a fort, etc.).
- 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.

Dear Family,

During the last unit of this module, your student will apply his or her knowledge of tools and work to create magnificent things, write about them, and participate in a discussion around the module guiding question: “What do we need to make magnificent things?” Students will be sharing their work on (--date of Lesson 13--) at (--time of your integrated lesson--), and we would love to have you join us! A reminder letter of this celebration will be sent home when we are closer to this date.

What will your student be learning?

Students will conclude their study of the topic of tools and work by making an item for the classroom. Their learning will be focused on the ideas below. Students will need to work with a team to complete their project before jumping into learning how to write about their experience.

- People use tools and habits of character to do work.
- People can communicate their work through writing.

Students will also practice these reading foundation skills:

- Identify and write the sound for most consonants and vowels

- Segment (break apart) the individual sounds of spoken, one-syllable words, and blend them back together
- Decode (read) and encode (write) regularly spelled, one-syllable words

How will your student be learning?

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

- Working with a small group to plan, create, and revise their magnificent thing for the classroom
- Practicing using habits of character as they engage in small groups
- Engaging in reflective conversations with classmates
- Writing about their magnificent things

What can you do to support your student at home?

- Ask your student to talk with you about the following question: How are you creating your magnificent thing for the classroom?
- Invite your student to name the tools and habits of character being used during work around the house (e.g., cooking, cleaning, fixing).
- Encourage your student to read the weekly Student Decodable Reader or a letter book to you every night.
- Practice reading and spelling regularly-spelled, one-syllable words with the middle vowel sound /i/. For example: “pit,” “chip,” and “bib.”

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

Sincerely,

____TEACHER NAME HERE____