



Use the different sections of this letter to begin conversations with your child about what he or she is learning.

Big Idea: How can we prepare for weather?

Ask your child how this week's reading selection helps him or her answer this question.

This week's reading selection: *Tornadoes!*

Summary: Detailed illustrations and text show readers how a tornado forms, how tornadoes are classified, the damage twisters do, and what to do when a severe storm approaches.

Essential Questions: How can weather impact your community? What are ways we can protect ourselves from weather we cannot control?

► **DISCUSS** with your child what he or she already knows about tornadoes and tornado safety. What procedures are followed at school during a tornado drill? What can you do at home to prepare for a tornado?

Vocabulary

Focus: The words below appear in this week's reading selection.

classifications	<i>noun</i>	specific, systematic arrangements of things into categories
demolish	<i>verb</i>	to tear down or destroy the structure of
funnel cloud	<i>noun</i>	the bottom part of a tornado that is wide at one end and thin at the other
prepare	<i>verb</i>	to get ready
radar	<i>noun</i>	a device that uses reflected radio waves to track objects
updraft	<i>noun</i>	an upward current of air

► **USE** these words while discussing the reading selection.

Spelling

Focus: This week your child will spell words with the long *o* sound and homophones (words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings).

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| 1. groan | 6. tail | 11. float |
| 2. grown | 7. loan | 12. bow |
| 3. toe | 8. roast | 13. crow |
| 4. tow | 9. coach | 14. flown |
| 5. tale | 10. grow | 15. croak |

Challenge

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| 1. horse | 2. hoarse | 3. pillow |
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► **HAVE** your child practice spelling these words.

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will work with partners in writing conferences to revise, edit, and publish an informative piece about an animal. Then he or she will work individually on prewriting for a new informative text about a topic of interest.

Grammar: Your child will also be learning about the four types of sentences: declarative (*My bus comes at two.*), interrogative (*When does the bus come?*), imperative (*Wait here for the bus.*), and exclamatory (*I'm late for the bus!*).

► **ASK** your child to find statements, questions, commands, and exclamations in books or magazines.