

Michele Plutro: Another way to engage families in children's science learning is to create science experiences that children can do at home with their families. One very successful way teachers accomplish this is to ask children to collect data in order to answer a question. One delightful example that Dr. Katz shared at the meeting involves the concept of a chair. The children were provided clipboards, drawing paper, and pencils to take home. They were asked to look around where they live, and draw anything they see that they could sit on.

The variety of objects that children described was remarkable. There were high chairs, rocking chairs, toilets, and even shopping carts. The children began to refer to this kind of an assignment as their "home-school-work." Home-school-work is always done with an adult and is related to what is going on in the curriculum. It engages adults in exploring with their children and it helps them understand what their child is learning.

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