Dear Parents,

In school, your child has been exploring the natural world with a free program featuring characters from Ben & Holly’s Little Kingdom. This series for preschoolers includes themes of friendship, imagination, adventure, and misadventure when things don’t go as planned. These themes can help support your child’s learning and growth. Continue the fun at home with the springtime adventure below.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD ADVENTURE

As a family, explore a park or green space near your home. Visit a new location if possible. Find five (5) items that remind you of spring. List the items below and ask your child to describe each one to practice language skills. Being mindful of items that can and cannot be collected from public spaces, choose one item for your child to collect and show at school.

1. ____________________________
2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________
4. ____________________________
5. ____________________________

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About Ben & Holly’s Little Kingdom

Holly is a young fairy princess who is still learning how to fly and her magic doesn’t always go as planned. Her best friend, Ben Elf, doesn’t have wings and he doesn’t do magic, but he is very good at making things—especially toys. They live in the Little Kingdom—a tiny land where flowers and grass rise above the Kingdom’s tallest towers.

Watch Ben & Holly’s Little Kingdom on Nick Jr., find fun games and crafts at benandholly.tv, and learn more on Facebook @OfficialLittleKingdomUS.
ACTIVITY A INSTRUCTIONS:

Celebrate Earth

Honor Earth Day with a hands-on craft activity to say thank you to our planet.

Goal: Students illustrate what they like about Earth and describe their pictures to the class.

Time Needed: 30 minutes, plus time for follow-up activities

Materials Needed: Copies of the “Celebrate Earth” Student Activity Sheet A on recycled paper (if possible), crayons, scissors, tape, glue, card stock or newspaper

Prep: Review the section titled “Using the Activity Sheet” to determine if prepping materials in advance will be necessary.

GETTING STARTED

Talk with students about planet Earth. Ask them:

• What is planet Earth? (Our home planet)
• What is on planet Earth? (Answers may include people, buildings, trees, animals, water, etc.)

Explain that spring is a time when things in nature begin to grow or change in many places on Earth. It is also a time when we celebrate Earth—Earth Day is April 22. Ask:

• What do you like about planet Earth? What makes planet Earth special to you? (Encourage students to consider things they see in nature, such as plants and animals, and activities they can do outdoors in nature.)

USING THE ACTIVITY SHEET

Distribute the activity sheet and read the instructions to the class. Explain that the page features a leaf like the one on Ben’s hat. In the leaf, students draw a picture showing what they like about Earth to say thank you to the planet.

Have them cut out their leaves once done. Provide students with headbands made from strips of card stock that you cut and staple together or have each student create a hat from recycled paper or newspaper by bringing the two top corners together to form a cone and taping the ends. Students can then glue or tape their leaves onto the headbands or hats. As an alternative, create a collage with the leaves on a bulletin board.

Invite students to wear their hats and describe their pictures to the class.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Create a story about a trip around Earth. Ask students to imagine that Holly is going to use her magic wand to take the class on an Earth adventure. Ask students: Where would you go and what would you do? What would you see? Students might work with you in small groups or as a class to create the story. Transcribe the adventure and have the students draw pictures about their Earth adventure.

Send home copies of the Family Resource Page so families can continue the learning, fun, and adventure at home! Invite students to bring in their neighborhood adventure lists or one item they find to share with the class.
Exploring Our Natural World With Ben and Holly

ACTIVITY B INSTRUCTIONS: Adventure Maze

Welcome spring with an activity that explores the outdoor world and friendship.

Goal: Students discuss and describe things in nature and use visual cues to find items in the maze.

Time Needed: 20 minutes, plus time for follow-up activities

Materials Needed: Copies of the “Adventure Maze” Student Activity Sheet B on recycled paper (if possible), crayons

GETTING STARTED

Discuss with students things that are found in nature. Ask them:
- What types of things do you see outside? (Answers may include trees, flowers, bugs, birds, rivers, oceans, mountains, rocks, etc.)
- What types of animals live outside? (Answers may include bugs, birds, bears, squirrels, fish, etc.)

Next, talk about things we can do outside. Ask students:
- What do you like to do outside with your family and friends? (Answers may include walk, hike, go to parks, play, swim, skate, etc.)

Explain that Ben and Holly are friends who live in the Little Kingdom. They like to play games and go on adventures. Ask students:
- If you and your friends were going to invite Ben and Holly on an adventure outside, what would you do? What would be a really fun adventure?

USING THE ACTIVITY SHEET

Distribute the activity sheet and read the instructions to the class. Have students work with partners to complete the page.

Ask students to describe what each of the items they circled on the sheet is like in real life. For example, students can describe the items by color, size, whether the animals walk or fly, etc.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Take a walk as a class to a nearby park or through the school playground, or simply look out the classroom window. Ask students to describe the plants, animals, and nature they see. Once done, have students work with partners to draw pictures of what they observed.

Play a nature game with the class. Challenge students to work as a team to brainstorm as many items as they can that are found in nature. Provide them with a category and record their answers on the board. Categories may include: things that are green, things that fly, things that have four legs, things that are hard, things that are soft, things that make noise, etc.

Send home copies of the Family Resource Page so families can continue the learning, fun, and adventure at home! Invite students to bring in their neighborhood adventure lists or one item they find to share with the class.
What do you like about planet Earth?
Show what you like about Earth to say thank you. Draw a picture in the leaf below, then cut out the leaf along the dotted line.

Thank you, Earth
Holly and Ben like to play outside. Help Holly get to Ben so they can play. Explore the maze. Circle the things in nature Holly sees along the way.