

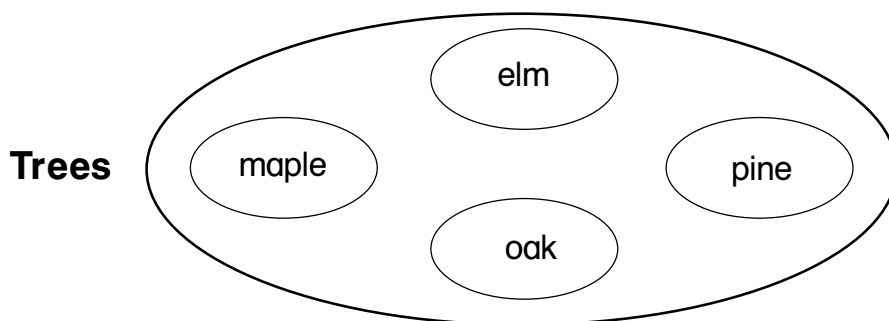


Dear Family,

Your child is now learning to solve story problems. Some of these problems are a special kind of “no-action” problem. The people or objects in these problems may be grouped together into a larger category to solve the problem. For example, 5 oranges and 4 apples are 9 pieces of fruit; 3 boys and 7 girls are 10 children. Having children group and then classify everyday objects is helpful for both math and language development.

One way to illustrate categories is to use a Venn diagram. A Venn diagram is a drawing that uses overlapping shapes to show how things are related. In the completed example shown below, each thing (maple, oak, pine, and elm) fits into the larger category: trees.

Children may work from the larger category to the smaller (Name some trees.), or from the smaller category to the larger (How are maple, oak, pine, and elm alike? They are all kinds of trees.) You might want to play a game with your child, taking turns creating Venn diagrams and guessing the category or adding examples to a given category. You may have more or fewer than four examples inside the larger category.



Please call if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,
Your child's teacher