Dear Family,

Our class is starting a unit on verbs—words that show action or describe states of being. Students will learn about different kinds of verbs: action verbs (verbs that tell what the subject has or does), being verbs (verbs that tell what the subject is or feels), and linking verbs (verbs that express being and link the subject with a word in the predicate). They will also learn about verb phrases and about verb tenses (verb forms that show past, present, and future action). Since many verbs change form depending on how they are used, students will practice choosing the correct forms of verbs for their sentences. Here are some easy ways for you to help your child practice what he or she is learning about verbs.

### Homework

Have your child complete the exercise below and return it to his or her teacher on ________________.

Copy the sentences below on another sheet of paper. Underline the linking verb in each sentence.

**Example:** Corina was amazed when she won the championship.

**Correct:** Corina was amazed when she won the championship.

1. Corina appears ordinary, but she is an extraordinary young woman.
2. After years of hard practice, she became a championship skater.
3. Even when she felt afraid, Corina competed.
4. In the beginning she was shy, but today she feels confident.
5. She remains competitive and skates with great passion.

### Activities

**Telling Tenses** Have your child listen as you tell about your day. Use simple verb tenses: present, past, and future. After each sentence, have your child say the verb and its tense.

(I order tickets at the beginning of the month. [order; present tense]
At lunchtime I ordered our basketball tickets. [ordered; past tense]
We will go to the game on Friday night. [will go; future tense])

**Irregular Verbs** Work with your child to create and tell a story about an ocean adventure. Ask your child to use at least five of the following irregular verbs in his or her story: *sink, swim, ring, blow, break, spring, drive, fall, fly*. If your child needs help choosing the correct verb form, see page 129 of the English textbook.

### Reading Tip

As your child reads, encourage him or her to notice action verbs and being verbs. Which verbs make the writing more interesting?

Check out Kids’ Place Houghton Mifflin English! www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/