Dear Families,

Today, your child read *Lockdown Drill: A Crouching Tigers Safety Story* before participating in our school's lockdown drill.

Lockdown Drill uses story and simple, age-appropriate language to help young children understand why schools practice safety plans, without introducing frightening scenarios they may not be developmentally ready to understand.

One quick note for families: The story uses pretend snakes as a child-friendly way to explain why a class might need to stay safely inside their classroom. There were no snakes at your child's school today. If your child comes home talking about snakes, they are remembering the story they heard before the drill.

After reading the book, your child practiced four important skills with their class:

1. **Calm bodies:** take a deep breath and keep your body still and slow.
2. **Locked lips:** "lock" your lips with an invisible key and stay very quiet.
3. **Listening ears:** listen to your teacher and follow directions right away.
4. **Together, we are safe:** stay with your class in your Special Safety Spot.

Our goal is for children to leave today's experience feeling prepared rather than frightened, and confident that the adults at school have a plan to help keep them safe.

Continue the Conversation at Home

Children may process today's experience differently. Some may be excited to tell you all about the story and drill, while others may not mention it at all.

Rather than asking, **"Were you scared?"** try letting your child lead the conversation with questions like:

- What did you learn about safety today?
- What happened in *Lockdown Drill*?
- What did your class practice after you read the story?
- What should you do when your teacher says "lockdown"?
- Who helps keep you safe at school?

If Your Child Has Questions

Are there really snakes at my school?
No. The snakes were part of the story. Volcano's class practiced what to do in the story, and your class practiced its own safety plan at school.

Why do we practice lockdown drills?
We practice Lockdown Drills to keep us safe if someone or something that doesn't belong is at our school. Just like we practice fire drills and tornado drills, practicing our safety plan helps everyone know what to do to stay safe. We hope we never need to use it, but practicing helps us be prepared.

Am I safe at school?
Your teachers and school staff have plans for many different kinds of emergencies. Practicing those plans helps everyone know what to do and is one of the ways adults work to keep children safe at school.

What if I forget what to do?
That's okay. Your teacher will help you. That's why schools practice: the more we practice something, the easier it is to remember what to do.

More Support for Families

We've also included *Talking to Young Children About Lockdown Drills*, a free family guide from Crouching Tigers with simple, calm language for home, answers to the little questions kids ask, and tips for grown-ups.

Read *Lockdown Drill* at Home

If you'd like to read *Lockdown Drill: A Crouching Tigers Safety Story* with your child at home or have a copy to revisit together:

Buy the book on Amazon: [AMAZON LINK]
Learn more: crouchingtigers.com/lockdowndrill

Want more free resources from Crouching Tigers? Sign up at **crouchingtigers.com/lockdownguides**

Thank you for partnering with us as we help children learn that preparation, practice, and trusted adults are all part of staying safe.

Warmly,

SCHOOL OR PROGRAM NAME