Books of the Month

**Froodle** by Antoinette Portis
Crows caw, doves coo and little brown birds are supposed to peep. But when Little Brown Bird decides she’s bored with peeping and wants to ‘froodle’, she shakes up every tree in town. This clever book is fun to read aloud, has vibrant illustrations, an amusing story, and a nice message about trying new things and staying true to yourself. Preschool.

Other fun books about Birds

**Telephone** by Mac Barnett—A message from a Mother Bird goes through many transformations on its way to her son. This funny book might just spark a game of telephone. Preschool and Young School-age.

**Sweep Up the Sun** by Helen Frost—Stunning photographs star in this lovely, simple book about birds. All Ages.

**How to Heal a Broken Wing** by Bob Graham—A heartwarming story of a young boy who tends a bird with a broken wing. The illustrations beg for conversation. Preschool and Young School-age.

**Birds: A Question and Answer Book** by Isabel Martin – A simple informational book with oversized colorful photographs. Preschool.

**Sing...Sing a Song** by Joe Raposo—A little bird brings Joe Raposo’s famous song to life in this sweet picture book that you can sing! Toddler and Preschool.

**Nerdy Birdy** by Aaron Reynolds – Fitting in and truly being a friend are the themes of this amusing book. Young school-aged children may find Nerdy Birdy’s plight familiar and comforting.

**Little Black Crow** by Chris Raschka - A young boy asks questions of the black crow in this poetic and sparsely illustrated picture book. Preschool.

**This is the Sunflower** by Lola M. Schaefer—A beautifully illustrated cumulative story about birds and seeds. Preschool.

Rhyme of the Month

**Houses**
Here is a nest for the robin
(form nest with hands)
Here is a hive for the bee
(fold hands together)
Here is a hole for the bunny
(form a hole with your fist)
And here is a house for me!
(place arms in a triangle above your head)

Poem of the Month

**Woodpeckers**
Woodpeckers are ‘peckuliar’ things.
They pick to peck
But not to sing
They rap and tap for sap in trees
Till some they drum look like swiss cheese
They thump on stumps of rotting wood
To gobble insects...Mmmmmmm tastes good!

Douglas Florian

Free STARS trainings are listed at www.piercecountylibrary.org
You may register for STARS classes by clicking on the date of the class on the Calendar of the Pierce County Library website: www.piercecountylibrary.org
Learning Ideas for March:

**Alphabet Clothesline**

**Supplies**
- 26 clothespins
- Pictures from the magazines or the Internet
- Markers
- Paper
- Scissors

Write the letters of the alphabet on the clothespins (or write them on paper and glue the paper to the clothespins). Cut out pictures of items that begin with each letter of the alphabet (apple, bull, cat, dog, elephant, etc.). Working together with the children, make the beginning sound of the object and see if they can select the corresponding clothespin letter. Clothespin the picture to the letter. Perhaps hang these on a clothesline for future use.

(For younger children begin with these letters: B, D, H, M, N, P, W and Y—their sounds are the easiest for young children to connect to a letter)

by Trish Kuffner, author of *The Preschooler’s Busy Book*

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**Take a Picture Walk**

We know from research that infants and toddlers benefit greatly from book sharing—reading together helps develop young children’s decoding skills, vocabulary, narrative skills, thought processes and readiness to read. But how we share books matters. The greatest benefit comes when we involve the children in an interactive way, encouraging them to use their skills. An easy way to do this is by taking a “picture walk” through a book—not reading the text, but just looking at the pictures and talking together about what you see in them. This is a wonderful way to engage children actively in a book. And the dialogue that takes place between you and the child lends itself to high quality learning.

Look for books with interesting, vibrant illustrations and try to follow the child’s lead. Ask open-ended questions and take your time on each page. For older children, you might engage them in a discussion about the illustrations themselves—how they were created, what medium was used, etc.

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You can find a myriad of early learning information at our website:

http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/
(in the parents/caregivers section of the Kids/Teens menu)