Books of the Month

**The Sweet and Sour Animal Book** by Langston Hughes—
This is an alphabet book by one of America’s greatest poets. Short and perfectly illustrated by students from the Harlem School of the Arts, this is a wonderful book to share with preschoolers. There is a warm introduction, and a lovely afterward included. Preschool.

Other fun books about Animal Poetry:
- **Flutter and Hum: Animal Poems/Aletea y Zumbido** by Julie Paschkis—Lovely, brief poems in English and Spanish about a myriad of animals. Illustrated by the author. Preschool and Young School-age children.
- **ABC Animal Jamboree** by Giles Andreae—Simple poems about an alphabet of animals accompanied by vibrant illustrations. Preschool.
- **Beastly Verse** by JooHee Yoon—A collection of classic poems, some short, some longer, illustrated in bright, bold colors. Preschool and young school-age.
- **Sleepy Snoozy Cozy Coozy: A Book of Animal Beds** by Judy Young—This wonderful book features a poem about animals and their beds as well as factual information about that animal. Beautifully illustrated. Preschool and young school-age.
- **Count Me a Rhyme: Animal Poems by the Numbers** by Jane Yolen—Vivid photographs accompany counting poems from 1—10. Young school-age.

Rhyme of the Month

**A Little Brown Bear**

A little brown bear went searching for honey.
(Shade eyes, look around)
Isn’t it funny, a bear wanting honey!
He sniffed in the breeze. (Sniff)
And he listened for bees.
(Cup hands behind ears)
And would you believe, he even climbed trees.
(Mime this action)

Poem of the Month

**The Lion**

One thing you can say about roaring
It is not boring.
And if rushing around the jungle being king
Is your sort of thing
You might find the life of a lion
Worth tryin”.

Karla Kuskin

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 April:

**Farm Animal Puppets**
Simple puppets are a wonderful way to encourage conversation and play. Popsicle sticks and paper are the basics for these easy puppets. Read aloud one of the farm books mentioned in this newsletter and encourage the children to color farm faces and use them to reenact the story. Perhaps drape a sheet over a table, or cut a square out of one side of a box to create a puppet stage. Ask the children to brainstorm what in the classroom they can use to support their puppet shows.

This idea was inspired by the Sugar Aunts blog: http://www.sugaraunts.com/2015/08/big-red-barn-book-craft.html

**Fun Farm Animal Books**
- Big Red Barn by Ruth Brown
- Hurry Hurry by Eve Bunting
- On the Farm by David Elliot
- Cat Goes Fiddle-I-Fee by Paul Galdone
- Señor Pancho Had a Rancho by René Colato Lainez
- Hello Day by Anita Lobel
- The Day the Dog Said, ‘Cock-a-Doodle-Doo’ by David McPhail

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**Greeting Cards**
Bring in some greeting cards and envelopes (either some that you received or bought, or some solicited from families)

Show the greeting cards to the children and read the messages printed on them. Talk about their purpose and engage the children in a discussion about when we might send a card. Ask them to talk about any cards they have sent or received. Encourage the children to think about a person to whom they would like to send a card. What would the message be? How would they decorate it? Etc.

Fold pieces of nice paper and encourage the children to create cards for the people they discussed. Perhaps create envelopes to enclose the cards.

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You can find a myriad of early learning information at our website: [http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/) (in the parents/caregivers section of the Kids/Teens menu)