**Books of the Month**

**One Hot Summer Day by Nina Crews**
Nina Crews’ beautiful photographs perfectly capture a very young girl’s experiences on an extremely hot day in the city. The spare text and evocative photographs make this a great summer book to share with both toddlers and preschoolers. The city setting provides a nice opportunity to talk about how summers are alike and different in different places.

**Other fun books about Heat:**
- **The Energy That Warms Us: A Look at Heat** by Jennifer Boothroyd—This non-fiction book features vibrant photographs and excellent information about heat.
- **Hot Dog** by Molly Coxe—A dog searches for relief from the heat in this very simple, yet very funny easy reader. All ages.
- **Come On, Rain!** by Karen Hesse—This poetic book perfectly captures a steaming hot day in the city and a young girl’s longing for rain. Preschool and young school-age.
- **Mama, Is it Summer Yet?** by Nikki McClure—A young child repeatedly asks his mother if it is Summer yet and her responses paint a lovely picture of seasons passing. Toddlers and Preschoolers.
- **Summer Wonders** by Bob Raczka—This very simple book features all the wonders of Summer. All ages.
- **Ice Cream Summer** by Peter Sis—A young boy corresponds with his grandfather about all the wonderful things he is doing over the summer in this very clever and entertaining book. Preschool and young school-age.
- **Summer Days and Nights** by Wong Herbert Yee—This lovely little book follows a young girl as she moves through a Summer day. Preschool.

**Rhyme of the Month**

**Ice Cream**

Five scoops of ice cream with sprinkles on top
I licked one scoop, and it went plop!
Four scoops of ice cream...
Three scoops of ice cream...
Two scoops of ice cream...
One scoop of ice cream...

No scoops of ice cream on my cone.
I’m still hungry, so I’m going home

**Poem of the Month**

**Big Round Sun**

The big, round sun is shining down
Warming everything around
It’s so hot that I would trade
All I own
For a bit of shade!

**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 August:

Open Ended Materials
Adding open-ended materials to your play areas helps broaden the imaginative potential of the children’s play. Since these materials have no specified purpose, the children will be more creative in their use of them. Here are some ideas for things to add.

- Add some play silks and scarves to the dress-up box. They will compliment the costumes you might already have as well as have the potential to be any and all things.
- Add simple wooden blocks to your block area.
- Add fabric scraps in various sizes and textures to a small collection of animal figurines or people
- Add reusables like cardboard tubes, popsicle sticks, cotton wool or natural materials like rocks, sticks, pinecones, bark and leaves to your play area. Natural materials have wonderful aesthetic qualities. They stimulate the senses by how they feel, smell and look.
- Add a basket of pebbles to the block area and see how your child incorporates them into their play.
- You can pick up off-cuts of mosaic glass or ceramic tiles from kitchen stores, often for free or very cheaply at least. Add them to your construction area, play kitchen, or in a basket on their own with a picture or book nearby to inspire mosaic/mandala or other kinds of play
- Treasures. If you find something beautiful, a vase or a stone or a starfish; anything that captures your attention, is likely to capture the attention of your children, too. Pop it into their play area and let them explore. Try to think beyond its general purpose and let your children explore/play with it in their own way.

Button Shapes
Hot glue buttons of various sizes and colors to a piece of cardboard and let it cool. Cut yarn into various lengths and encourage the children to explore shapemaking by winding the yarn around buttons.
Talk about the shapes together.

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)