Books of the Month

**Alfie: (The Turtle the Disappeared)** by Thyra Heder
The first part of this book is from Nia’s point of view as she expresses her observations about her pet turtle and how quiet and still he is until he finally disappears. The second half of the book illustrates that Alfie hasn’t disappeared, he is on the hunt for the perfect Birthday present. This is a lovely book about perspectives, resilience, and friendship.

Preschool and young school-age.

Other fun books about Kindness

- **I Can Help** by David Costello—A bright picture book that exemplifies kindness in a very simple and effective way. Toddlers and Preschoolers.
- **Nicole and Lola** by Meggan Hill—Kindness is demonstrated through photographs of a young boy caring for his Aunt’s dog. Preschool.
- **I walk with Vanessa: a Story about a Simple Act of Kindness** by Kerascoët—Charming story about a new girl in a classroom. Young schoolage.
- **One Love** by Cedella Marley—A beautiful picture book version of the Bob Marley song. The illustrations are lovely and you’ll want to sing it through many times. All ages.
- **If You Plant a Seed** by Kadir Nelson—A perfect book about kindness and sharing. Funny, and with brilliant illustrations and a wonderful message. All ages.
- **Number One Sam** by Greg Pizzoli—Fun story about an act of kindness and what it costs. Very simple text and fun illustrations make this appropriate for all ages.
- **Plant a Kiss** by Amy Krouse Rosenthal—very simple and sweet rhyming story about spreading kindness.
- **Each Kindness** by Jacqueline Woodson—A gorgeous book about kindness and lost chances. Young Schoolage.

Rhyme of the Month

**The More We Get Together**

The more we get together
Together, together
The more we get together
The happier we'll be
’Cause your friends are my friends
And my friends are your friends
The more we get together
The happier we'll be

Poem of the Month

**Poem**

I loved my friend.
He went away from me.
There’s nothing more to say.
The poem ends,
Soft as it began—
I loved my friend.

- Langston Hughes

Free STARS trainings are listed at [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://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](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org)
Learning Ideas for August:

Color Button Bags

Supplies:
- 1-2 Ziploc bags per person
- Hair gel
- Buttons or tokens in your target colors
- Sharpie markers
- Tape, masking or painter’s tape

Squeeze your hair gel into one Ziploc baggie. Put enough in there so that there will be good coverage once the bag is lying flat. Place two colors of buttons or tokens into two different areas of the bag.

Make sure you seal the bag really, really well. You could double bag it to seal it better. And/or tape the bag to the table.

Draw two circles (perhaps corresponding to the colors of the buttons or tokens) Write the two colors inside the circles.

Encourage the children to shift the proper color buttons into the labeled circle.

This is a lovely sensory activity for toddlers and preschoolers.

Aggression Cookies
(For those days when you’re not feeling kind!)

3 cups oatmeal
3/4 cup whole wheat flour
3/4 cup all purpose flour
1 1/4 cups brown sugar
3/4 cup apple sauce
3/4 cup margarine or butter
1/2 tablespoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup chocolate chips or raisins

Let your children help you measure out the ingredients. Talk about the measurements as you go along. Compare the amounts and discuss which is more and which is less.

Mix all the ingredients except the chocolate chips or raisins in a large bowl until combined. Remove it from the bowl and lay it out on a work surface. Encourage your children to mash, knead, squeeze, pound, and play to their heart’s content. The more they work the dough, the better the cookies will taste.

When they’re done kneading and mashing, show them how to roll bits of dough between their hands to form small balls, about an inch in size. Place the balls on a cookie sheet.

If you like, let the children press some chips or raisins into the balls. Coconut also tastes great and is fun to use.

Bake for 8-10 minutes in a 350 degree oven.

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)