**Early Learning Books, Rhymes & Fun**

*All Kinds of Friends* by Shelley Rotner

The myriad kinds of feelings that accompany friendships are explored through vivid and appealing photographs. One cannot help smiling at these delightful examples of all kinds of friends. All ages.

*One Little Lot: The 123s of an Urban Garden* by Diane C. Mullen

This lovely counting book illuminates the steps it takes to create an abundant urban garden. The sweet illustrations and the joyful nature of neighbors working together to create something positive for their neighborhood will appeal to all. Preschool.

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**Other Fun Books About US**

**Harlem Grown** by Tony Hillery

A joyful book based on the true story of Tony Hillary who, with the help of elementary school students at PS 175 in Harlem, New York City, turned the empty, trash-filled lot across the street from the school into a flourishing community garden. The book includes the author’s notes about the garden as well as guidelines on how to create a community garden near you. This book celebrates the beauty that is possible when we work together. May it inspire small gardens everywhere! Preschool and young school-age.

**Brown Baby Lullaby** by Tameka Fryer Brown

A lovely rhyming book around the evening ritual of getting ready for bed. All ages.

**Danbi Leads the School Parade** by Anna Kim

A young immigrant from Korea attends her first day at school and searches for the best way to make friends. Preschool.

**A Girl Like Me** by Angela Johnson

Nina Crews’ wonderful photographs and Angela Johnson’s imaginative text reveal a young girl’s dreams and how they can be realized. Preschool.

**Just Like a Mama** by Alice Faye Duncan

A young girl expresses the many ways her foster mother behaves the same way any mama would in this loving look at family. Preschool, young school-age.

**Ohana Means Family** by Ilima Loomis

The simple text is beautifully illustrated in this book reflecting traditional Hawaiian culture. All ages.

**Salma the Syrian Chef** by Danny Ramadan

A young refugee begins cooking traditional recipes in an attempt to cheer her mother, who is missing their home in Syria. This is a beautiful, loving story. School-age.

**When We Are Kind** by Monique Gray Smith

In this gentle book, a child shares the many ways that they (and we) show kindness to ourselves, to others and to our earth. All ages.
Come a’look a’see, here’s my mama,  
(point to thumb)  
Come a’look a’see, here’s my papa,  
(point to index finger)  
Come a’look a’see, my brother tall,  
(point to tall finger)  
Sister, baby,  
(point to ring, then baby finger)  
I love them all.  
(blow a kiss with all your fingers)

Many Different Colors
Many different colors in the human race
Black and brown and white and tan
Bronze, espresso, peach and sand
All together in this place
Many different colors in the human race

Susan Anderson-Newham

Seeds and Planting
After sharing the community garden books, find a place where your children can plant a school garden.

Traveling Skills
Supplies: Masking or painter’s tape
To help your children work on their traveling skills (large motor skills) place tape on the floor in differing patterns – waves, zig-zags, squares, circles, spirals, etc. Encourage the children to walk along the tape patterns. Place some as many small boxes apart from one another to encourage jumping. (A zig-zagging traveling line is a nice idea for a hallway to encourage children to move fluidly when going from one place to another!)

Newspaper Toss
Supplies: Newspaper
Buckets or wastebaskets
Crumple up the newspaper into balls. (Encourage the children to help with this.) Place the buckets or wastebaskets in a loose formation in one area of your classroom. Tape a toss line on the floor and let the children take turns throwing the newspaper balls into the bins from the toss line. (You may have to move the toss line to make it more or less challenging depending on the age of the children in your class.) Keep track of how many go into containers and how many do not on each turn. Have the children gather up the newspaper balls and return them to the toss line for the next child’s turn at tossing.

Did You Know? Pierce County has an Early Learning Coalition called “Project Child Success.” You may read all about it and get involved here: https://projectchildsuccess.org/