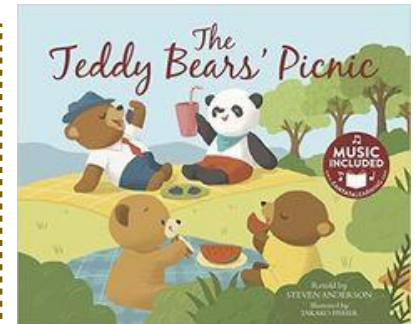


The Teddy Bears' Picnic by Steven C. Anderson – A new version of this classic song where children sneak into the woods to watch their teddy bears having a picnic! This version comes with a CD as well. Ages 2-5.

Good News, Bad News by Jeff Mack – Rabbit and mouse have all sorts of adventures, both good and bad, in this story that uses only four words to tell the tale – “good news, bad news.” This would be a great story to encourage children to act out, after reading a few times! Ages 3-7.



OTHER FUN EXAMPLES OF PICNIC BOOKS:

Click Clack, Quackity-Quack: an alphabetical adventure by Doreen Cronin – The farm animals all prepare in their own way for a picnic in this fun story that also encourages letter learning. Ages 3-6.

Having a Picnic by Sarah Garland – Even though it is winter, a mama, her two young children, and their dog enjoy a windy picnic at the local park. Ages 2-5.

MacDuff Saves the Day by Rosemary Wells – When a group of ants steals the family's picnic basket, MacDuff finds a lovely way to help not only his family, but a lonely old man. Ages 2-5.

Picnic by John Burningham – A boy, a girl, a pig, a sheep, and a duck go on an adventurous picnic in this interactive story. Ages 4-6.

Picnic by Emily Arnold McCully – A little mouse gets lost on a family picnic in this wordless book. Ages 3-6.

Ready for Anything by Keiko Kasza – Duck and Raccoon are friends. Raccoon is very cautious. Duck is positive and cheerful. The two balance each other out perfectly and help each other see the importance of being prepared while focusing on the bright side! Ages 4-7.

We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past by Jacqueline Woodson – A lovely, heartwarming story about a family reunion picnic! Ages 5-9.

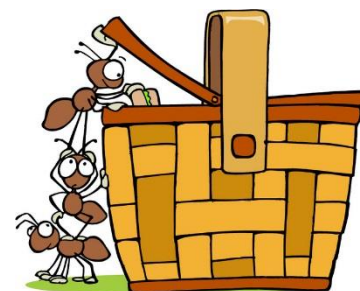
We're Going on a Picnic! By Pat Hutchins – Three friends go on a picnic, and each brings a wonderful snack but have trouble finding the perfect place for their picnic. Ages 3-6.



Rhyme of the Month

Five Hungry Ants

Five hungry ants, marching in a line
Came upon a picnic where they could dine
They marched into the salad,
They marched into the cake,
They marched into the pepper,
But that was a mistake – AAAAA- CHOO!



Song of the Month

GOING ON A PICNIC BY RAFFI

Going on a picnic, leaving right away
If it doesn't rain, we'll stay all day.
Did you bring the sandwiches?
Yes I've brought the sandwiches.
Did you bring the salad?
Yes I've brought the salad.
Ready for a picnic, here we go.

Going on a picnic, leaving right away
If it doesn't rain, we'll stay all day.
Did you bring the melon?
Yes I've brought the melon.
Did you bring the apples?
Yes I've brought the apples.
Ready for a picnic, here we go.



The song continues with more verses and more food ideas. You can listen to this song on Raffi's *Corner Grocery Store* OR *Fun Food Songs* CDs to hear the melody.

Learning Ideas for August

Have a Backyard Picnic

You don't have to travel far to have some picnic fun. Pack up a picnic to have in your backyard or center playground. Involve children in the planning of what they would like to take on the picnic. Make a list together of the types of food they would like as well as other things they might need – picnic blanket or tablecloth, paper plates, napkins, etc. Make sure to include some fun books to read aloud on your picnic as well!

Here are a few more learning ideas:

- While on the picnic, before you pull each food item out of the picnic basket, describe it and see if your children can guess what it is...
- Have a teddy bear's picnic!
 - Invite each child to bring a favorite teddy bear or other stuffed animal from home (make sure you have extra stuffed animals so each child can have their own for the day)
 - Include bear themed food such as "Teddy Grahams," sandwiches shaped like bears using a teddy bear cookie cutter, etc.

HAVE FUN!

You may register for FREE STARS classes by clicking on the date of the class on the CALENDAR of the Pierce County Library web site: www.piercecountylibrary.org.

THE TOPIC FOR THE NEXT STARS CLASS ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 6th, WILL BE "NOW I EAT MY ABC'S – FUN WITH FOOD AND LITERACY."

Favorite Picnic Foods Chart

After reading some of the books on the booklist above or your own favorite picnic books, ask children to name as many picnic foods as they can –

Write them across the top of a large piece of paper. If you can, draw a picture of the food next to the word for that food - or put up a food sticker if you have one.

Ask children to vote for their top 2 picnic foods by raising their hands. Put a tally mark in the chart next to each type of food. Count up how many votes you got for each picnic food. This is great math learning!

Having a favorite is a tough concept for young children so you may get multiple votes for everything – that's okay! What you're working on is counting, vocabulary, and making the connection between the spoken and written language.

