Pattern Fish by Trudy Harris – A fun read aloud story that not only introduces children to patterns (what they look like, different examples) but also a wide vocabulary of sea life. Ages 4-7.


OTHER BOOKS ABOUT PATTERNS:

Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow? By Susan A. Shea – What is alive and growing? What is an object and does not change or grow? Told in clever rhyming/question and answer format, children are challenged to compare and contrast the differences between living creatures and inanimate objects. The pattern here is in the clever repetitive language used. Ages 4-8.

First the Egg by Laura Vaccaro Seeger – First the egg, then the chicken; first the seed, then the flower; first the caterpillar, then the ______... another fun look at patterns and nature with original, eye-catching artwork! Ages 3-6.

Jump, Frog, Jump! By Robert Kalan – This story has a very clear pattern. Similar to “This is the House that Jack Built,” it gradually builds all the while retelling what happened on each page until the frog JUMPS!! A very fun read aloud! Ages 3-7.

Over in the Meadow by Ezra Jack Keats – A lovely, comforting song about parents and animal babies in nature. The language repeats on each page so that children can very quickly join in with the story. Ages 3-6.

Patterns by Sara Pistoia – This book offers a great introduction to patterns for preschoolers – what are patterns, when and how do we use them, and what are specific examples. Ages 4-6.

Patterns in the City by J. Clark Sawyer – This book is part of a larger series all about patterns in the real world, encouraging children to look for patterns everywhere. This one is specifically about patterns that can be found in a large city. Ages 6-9.

Who Took the Cookie from the Cookie Jar? By Bonnie Lass – A fun version of the classic playground song. Skunk is trying to solve the mystery of who took the cookie by asking each of his friends if it was them. They answer in clever and funny rhymes. Super fun read aloud! Ages 3-6.
Rhymes of the Month

Grandma's Glasses
Here are grandma's glasses
And here is grandma's hat,
Here is the way she folds her hands
And lays them in her lap.
Here are grandpa's glasses
And here is grandpa's hat,
Here is the way he folds his arms – JUST LIKE THAT!!

Little Turtle
I have a little turtle and he lives in a box,
He swims in the puddles and he climbs on the rocks,
He snapped at a mosquito; he snapped at a flea;
He snapped at a minnow; and he snapped at me!
He caught the mosquito; he caught the flea;
He caught the minnow; but he didn’t catch me~!

Learning Activities for AUGUST

Five Pairs of Dirty Socks – for use in circle time
Sing the words below to the tune of “The Grand Old Duke of York.” As you sing, invite children to match the socks and place them in a basket. The basket can be a plastic one or one made from felt that you put up on the felt board. The socks can be made from felt socks, colorful paper that has been laminated and Velcro added, OR real socks that have been mis-matched ahead of time.

Five pairs of dirty socks on my bedroom floor;
Mom washed the blue pair and then there were four!
Four pairs of dirty socks that belong to me;
Mom washed the red pair and then there were three!
Three pairs of dirty socks; what’s a kid to do?
Mom washed the green pair and then there were two!
Two pairs of dirty socks, I wear them when I run;
Mom washed the white pair and then there was one!
One pair of dirty socks rolled up in a ball;
Mom washed the last pair, my favorite one of all!
(decorate this pair the most)
No more dirty socks, Mom washed them all today;
But wait until tomorrow, there’s more on the way!
(toss socks into the air)

Children can create patterns from the different colored socks too!

Pattern Faces
Put up different examples of emotions faces on the flannel board in various patterns. Start simple, alternating between “HAPPY” and “SAD.” Add in other emotions and make the patterns increasingly challenging.

Invite children to change and/or create their own patterns on the board as well.

For even more practice with patterns, put sample “emotions” faces out on a table, along with construction paper, scissors, and glue. Children can cut and glue on their own face patterns. Children can also draw their own faces and make patterns from their drawings.

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 next STARS Class will be Saturday, September 22nd, and is on the topic of GRATITUDE!