**Other FUN Books About Summer**

*All books with an asterisk are available to read as an e-book on OverDrive.*

**Summer Song**
by Kevin Henkes

Each beautifully illustrated page of this book highlights the many gorgeous colors of summer. Trees, leaves, flowers, bees, butterflies, crickets, frogs, cats and dogs are featured in all their summer glory. Children engaging in summer activities, staying cool and having fun. This is a sweet love song to a season. All ages.

**The Thing About Bees: A Love Letter**
by Shabazz Larkin

The author writes a love letter to his two sons about the magic of bees in this wonderful book. Larkin admits we might not like bees because they might be annoying or hurt us, but reminds us people do the same things and yet, we love and cherish them. The illustrations are buoyant and colorful. And the information about bees is perfectly presented for young children. Highly recommended! Preschool and young schoolage.

**A Season of Flowers**
by Michael Garland

A stunningly illustrated book follows all the many flowers that bloom and grow in the span of a year. Even though it’s not directly about summer, many beautiful summer flowers are pictured. A great summertime read. All ages.

**Beehive**
by Jorey Hurley

Though there is only one word on each page, a bee’s daily life is illustrated in a vibrant and alluring way. Children will pour over these pages and teachers can use them to engage children in learning about these remarkable creatures. All ages.

**A Camping Spree with Mr. Magee**
by Chris Van Dusen

A hilarious rhyming story about Mr. Magee and his dog on a camping trip gone awry. Preschool and young schoolage.

**Mama, Is it Summer Yet?**
by Nikki McClure

A mother names many things her child will see once summer arrives. Simple paper-cut illustrations. All ages.

**Over in the Meadow**
illustrated by
Ezra Jack Keats

Beautiful illustrations accompany this traditional, rhyming poem. The lilting verse is almost mesmerizing for children. Preschool.

**Summer Babies**
by Kathryn O. Galbraith

This vibrant little board book presents summer in a very simple way. Infants and toddlers.

**Summer Supper**
by Rubin Pfeffer

Simple text and vivid illustrations tell the story of a garden growing over the summer and the food it produces.

**Summer Wonders**
by Bob Raczka

Very simple, rhyming text does a wonderful job of illustrating the highlights of summer.
Fun Learning Activities

Ice Sensory Play

Supplies:
- Containers of different shapes and sizes (yogurt containers, milk containers, large and small paper cups, large and small bowls)
- A large tub
- Blue food coloring
- Additional ice
- Water
- Optional: plastic sea animals

Using containers of different shapes and sizes, fill them with water and leave them in the freezer for a few days (or longer).

When ready to play, take them out of the freezer and let them defrost for about five minutes to make them easier to get out of the containers.

Put food coloring into the large bin, dump the ice shapes in and fill with water. Put in the plastic animals if desired.

Let the children explore the ice water talking about what they notice and what they feel. This could be a nice way to talk about hot and cold, summer and winter.

Squiggle Art

Supplies:
- Paper
- Markers or crayons
- Optional: music of some sort

Sit children around a table and provide each with a blank piece of paper. Put crayons or markers in the middle of the table. Encourage the children to make just one squiggle or shape or mark on their paper and then hand the paper to the person on their right. That child will add to what the first child created and then the papers will be passed again. Perhaps use music to signal when the papers are passed – like musical chairs. When the papers return to their original artists, share them one by one and talk about them together.

Did You Know?
The Tacoma Pierce County Health Department is hosting a free, online STARS training around Nutrition. You may find a link to the training here:
https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/HealthyEatingActiveLiving/NourishedandActiveinEarlyLearning

Summer in the South

The oriole sings in the greening grove
As if he were half-way waiting,
The rosebuds peep from their hoods of green,
Timid and hesitating.
The rain comes down in a torrent sweep
And the nights smell warm and piney,
The garden thrives, but the tender shoots
Are yellow-green and tiny.
Then a flash of sun on a waiting hill,
Streams laugh that erst were quiet,
The sky smiles down with a dazzling blue
And the woods run mad with riot.

By Paul Laurence Dunbar

Summer Day

The summer sun shines overhead, (form circle with arms)
And clouds float calmly by, (Float hands in air)
We lie down on a meadow bed, (Lay one hand on top of the other)
And watch birds fly in the sky. (Gently flap hands)

by Beverly Qualheim
The summer sun shines overhead, (form circle with arms)
And clouds float calmly by, (Float hands in air)
We lie down on a meadow bed, (Lay one hand on top of the other)
And watch birds fly in the sky. (Gently flap hands)

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