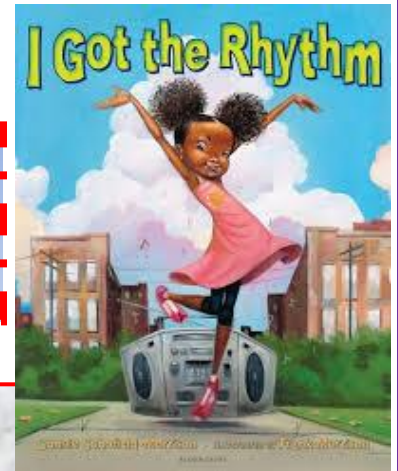


Book of the Month

I Got the Rhythm by Connie Schofield-Morrison; illustrated by Frank Morrison - In this buoyant, uplifting book, a little girl finds rhythms in both likely and unlikely places around her neighborhood and everyone joins in the dance. Ages 3-6.



More books featuring Dance!

Brontorina by James Howe – Although she is much too big to fit gracefully in Madame Lucille’s dance studio, Brontorina still has a love of dance which shines through and, in the end, the studio comes to her! Ages 4-8.

Dance with Me by Charles R. Smith – a fun, lively book that shows children dancing through their neighborhood and day. Ages 2-5.

Dancing Feet! By Lindsey Craig – As different animals dance across the page, children learn many new words to describe creative movement. Ages 2-5.

Flora and the Flamingo by Molly Schaar Idle – This book is nothing short of unique – check it out! Ages 4-7.

From Head to Toe by Eric Carle – A classic movement book for very young children that will always help get those extra wiggles out! Ages 1 and up!

Giraffes Can’t Dance by Giles Andreae – Even though he doesn’t dance the way everyone else does, Gerald finds that moving to your own beat is even better. Ages 4-8.

How do you Wokka-Wokka? By Elizabeth Bluemle – Children present their unique moves in response to the question “how to you wokka-wokka?” creating a book that celebrates children, dance, and life. Ages 3-7.

Rap a tap tap: here’s Bojangles – think of that! By Leo and Diane Dillon – Now a classic, this book is so rhythmical – I dare you to read it and not get up and move! Ages 4-8.

The All-American Jump and Jive Jig by Marie Poeller Hueston – This book introduces children to a variety of dance style, pairing the name of the dance creatively with the place where it is being danced. Ages 5-7.

For some nice mellow dance, nap time, or background music in your classroom, try CD’s by artist ELIZABETH MITCHELL. She has a very pleasant voice and always accompanies her songs with quiet guitar. To the right is one of her CD covers.



Music of the Month

There's a Little Wheel a Turnin' In My Heart

Appalachian Song

There's a little wheel a turnin' in my heart
There's a little wheel a turnin' in my heart,
In my heart, in my heart,
There's a little wheel a turnin' in my heart
There's a little bell a ringin' in my heart
There's a little bell a ringin' in my heart
In my heart, in my heart,
There's a little bell a ringin' in my heart
*Continue with a little song a singin' a little bee a buzzin', and I feel so very happy in my heart...
Make motions to fit with the words.*

One Elephant

One elephant went out to play
On a spider's web one day
He had such enormous fun
That he called for another elephant to come...
Oh, elephant!

Continue adding up until you have as many elephants as you like...

Here are the words in Spanish

Un elefante se balanceaba
Sobre la tela de una araña
Como veia que resistia
Fue a llamar a otro elefante
Dos elefantes...tres elefantes, etc.

LEARNING IDEAS FOR DECEMBER

Rhythm Stick Games

Pass out rhythm sticks and...

- Tap them while saying aloud a favorite rhyme that the children already know, great for reinforcing phonological awareness
- Practice naming parts of body by gently tapping things like knees, tummy, feet, arms, etc. - try singing the song "If You're Happy and You Know It" but add "tap your toes," "tap your knees," "tap your tummy"
- Practice beating rhythm patterns (floor, floor, together...) to incorporate math learning into circle time
- Play repeat after me games where there is one leader (teacher can begin but invite children to lead) and everyone must follow the pattern they create with their rhythm sticks!

Rhythm Scavenger Hunt

Ask children to search their classroom and find anything they can think of that would make a good sound or rhythm to bring back to the circle (you could prepare the room ahead of time with things that you think would make fun rhythms or music). Come back to circle and sing one of your favorite circle time songs using the new rhythm instruments!

Teach OPPOSITES through dance

Using scarves or any lightweight fabric, practice moving up and down, fast and slow, forward and backwards, side to side, right and left, and make little and big movements!

Classical music is great for teaching opposites – The library has many CD's with classical music that is fun for children to dance to like:

- The Nutcracker
- Carnival of the Animals
- Peter and the Wolf
- Swan Lake

You can anyone to help you find where these CD's are located.

Homemade Scarves – buy inexpensive nylon fabric from your local fabric store (JoAnn, Pacific Fabrics, etc.) Nylon tears easily and does not need to be hemmed. Squares or rectangles around the size of 18 to 36 inches work best.

Free STARS trainings are listed at 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 web site: www.piercecountylibrary.org.