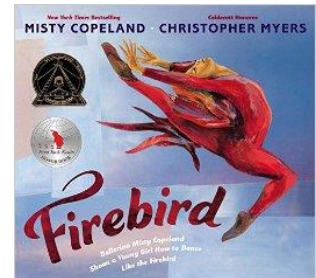


**Firebird by Misty Copeland** – Told by Misty Copeland, the first African-American woman to dance as the principal for the American Ballet Theater, this is a beautiful and inspiring story of possibilities for all. Ages 6-9.

**What a Wonderful World by Bob Thiele** – Based on the song made famous by Louis Armstrong, this is a book that anyone can sing aloud. It makes a wonderful bedtime book. Ages 0-6.



## OTHER FUN EXAMPLES OF BOOKS ABOUT MUSIC and DANCING:

**Brontorina by James Howe** – Brontorina proves that even brontosaurus can be graceful ballerinas and anyone who wants to can dance! Ages 4-7.

**Dancing Feet! by Lindsey Craig** – This is both a guessing game and get-up-and-dance book for toddlers. Ages 1-4.

**Elephants Cannot Dance! By Mo Willems** – Gerald the elephant is good at many things but dancing is not one of them. His friend piggy tries to teach him – with mixed results. Ages 4-7.

**Emma and Julia Love Ballet by Barbara McClintock** – Julia is a professional ballerina. Emma is a ballet student. This book looks at a day in the life of Emma and Julia and finishes with them meeting each other after a performance. Ages 4-7.

**I Got the Rhythm by Connie Schofield-Morrison** – A little girl proves that rhythm and music can be found all over her neighborhood and, by the end, the whole community is dancing. Ages 4-6.

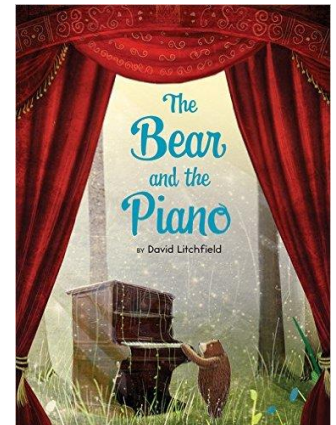
**If You're Happy and You Know It! By Anna McQuinn** – A great version of this famous song featuring children around the world. Ages 1-5.

**Jazz Baby by Lisa Wheeler** – The little baby in this story comes from a very musical family! Ages 3-6.

**Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles – Think of That! By Leo and Diane Dillon** – A lively biography of possibly the best tap dancer of all time, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson – one that can be read aloud easily to a group. Ages 3-6.

**Row, row, row your Boat by Jane Cabrera** – Colorful and beautiful – this is a fantastic book to sing to toddlers. Ages 1-4.

**The Bear and the Piano by David Litchfield** – A beautiful tale of both friendship and following your heart. Ages 5-8.



## Song and Poem of the Month

### Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle little star  
How I wonder what you are?  
Up above the world so high  
Like a diamond in the sky  
Twinkle, twinkle little star  
How I wonder what you are?

### Estrellita, Donde Estas?

Estrellita, donde estas?  
Me pregunto que seras.  
En el cielo y en el mar,  
Un diamante de verdad.  
Estrellita, donde esta  
Me pregunto que seras.

*This is a great song to use while children lie underneath the parachute. Gently wave the parachute up and down while singing. Children will love to feel the breeze on their faces as you sing together. Very calming!*

### Singing by Dorothy Aldis

Little birds sing with their beaks  
In the apple trees  
But little crickets in the grass  
Are singing with their knees.



## Learning Ideas for December

### Song Cube

#### What you need:

- Empty cardboard box (tissue box would work perfectly)
- Simple pictures that represent well-known children's songs
- Clear packing tape

1). Fill an empty tissue box or a square cardboard shipping box full of crumpled paper (newspaper, old magazines, or recycled paper works great). The tissue box can also be unused!

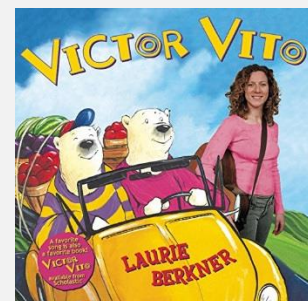
2). Find some images online of well-known children's songs. For example, a spider to represent the song "itsy bitsy spider," a star for the song "twinkle, twinkle," a hand for "if you're happy and you know it," – **SEE PICTURE ON FIRST PAGE** Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and type in "spider clip art." Click on the word "image" below the search box in Google to make sure you are searching for an image. You will get a huge variety of pictures back of spiders. Copy your favorite spider picture into a Word document. Repeat this looking for other images of songs and copy and paste them into Word.

3). Print them out and glue or tape them to your box. In order to make the box last the longest, tape clear packing tape over the top of all the pictures.

4). Children can take turns rolling the cube. When the cube lands on a picture, sing the song altogether.

### Laurie Berkner's CD *Victor Vito* has several of my new favorite songs!

- Try track 11, "The goldfish," for a silly and high energy song that practices listening/following directions along with large motor movement.
- For a mellow song, try track 22, "Goodnight" which talks about the love between families. I like to show pictures of the animals mentioned in the song, encourage children to move like these animals, and then help the animals each fall asleep as they're moving to the music. You can talk to children about animal families and how they take care of their babies, just as human families also take care of each other.



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](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org).

THE TOPIC FOR THE NEXT STARS CLASS ON SATURDAY, February 25<sup>th</sup>, WILL BE "THE PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES."