**July 2013**

**Book of the Month**

Hello! Hello! by Matthew Cordell

A young girl leaves behind the electronic devices occupying her family and heads outside for an imaginative adventure in this romp of a picture book. Everyone will look forward to going outside after reading this wonderful book. All ages.

**Other fun books featuring Playing Outside**

- **How do you Wokka-Wokka?** by Elizabeth Bluemle—Different ways of walking are highlighted in this clever picture book. Preschool.
- **On Meadowview Street** by Henry Cole—A young girl transforms her boring yard in this sweet book for preschoolers and young school-aged children.
- **A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever** by Marla Frazee—Two boys discover the world of imagination while on vacation with grandparents.
- **Monkey and Me** by Emily Gravett—A young girl and her stuffed monkey pretend to be different kinds of animals. Infants and Toddlers.
- **The Beeman** by Laurie Krebs—A young girl watches her grandfather tend to bees and gather honey. Wonderful rhyming text make this a wonderful choice for preschoolers.
- **The Raft** by Jim LaMarche—This beautiful book chronicles a young boy’s visit to his grandmother’s remote home begins with boredom but changes significantly once he discovers a raft for the lake. School-age.
- **Higher! Higher!** by Leslie Patricelli—A little girl swings so high on her swing, she makes something very unusual happen. Toddler.

**Rhyme of the Month**

I Can Move

Clap, clap, clap your hands as slowly as you can.
Clap, clap, clap your hands as quickly as you can.
Stomp, stomp, stomp your feet as slowly as you can.
Stomp, stomp, stomp your feet as quickly as you can.
Nod, nod, nod your head as slowly as you can.
Nod, nod, nod your head as quickly as you can.
Blink, blink, blink your eyes as slowly as you can.
Blink, blink, blink your eyes as quickly as you can.

(Encourage children to follow all the actions)

**Poem of the Month**

**Cats and Dogs**

Cats and dogs
it’s hot out.
Rats and mice
it’s hot.
Sun and stars
And Earth and Mars
it’s five, four, three
too hot!

Karla Kuskin

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Free STARS trainings are listed at www.piercecountylibrary.org

Due to the new smaller class size requirement and ineffective pre-registration procedures of the past, the Pierce County Library STARS classes will open their doors a half hour early and will accept the first 50 people for each class. We appreciate your patience and understanding!
Learning Ideas for July

Freeze Dance

Move a CD player outside and tell the children you are going to play freeze dance!

Pick a category, like emotions or animals, or food. Tell the children that while the music is playing, they can dance and march and jump (and plan), and when the music stops, they should freeze in a position that represents something from the category. Either choose a child posing and let the other children try and figure out what the child is representing with their pose, or you can walk around and guess for each child. Animals and emotions are good categories for preschoolers. For school-aged children, you can choose more abstract categories—vegetables, weather, vehicles, community helpers, etc.

Play again!

Have Fun!

You can find a myriad of early learning information at our website:

http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/
(in the parents/caregivers section of the Kids/Teens menu)

Beach Party

Have a beach party in the backyard! Share some books about the seashore with the children in case they have never been to the ocean. Talk about the beach together—what might you find there? Who might you meet there? What animals might you see, etc?

Spread a blanket outside and set up your beach picnic there. Perhaps eat lunch outside. Blow up beach balls and bat them back and forth. Build a sandcastle if you have a sandbox. Paint ocean scenes while outside. Listen to music and have a beach blanket bingo!

Farm Life

Share some books about farms with the children to introduce the animals, the sounds that they make, what they eat, where they sleep etc.

Set up a ‘farm’ outside. Encourage the children to pick either a farm animal or a farmer to act out. Pretend it’s feeding time and the farmer must get all the animals fed and they are hungry!

Brainstorm all the things the farmer must do to keep the farm running—gather eggs, milk the cow, repair fences, etc. Brainstorm all the things the animals do during the day.

Ready the farm for bed.