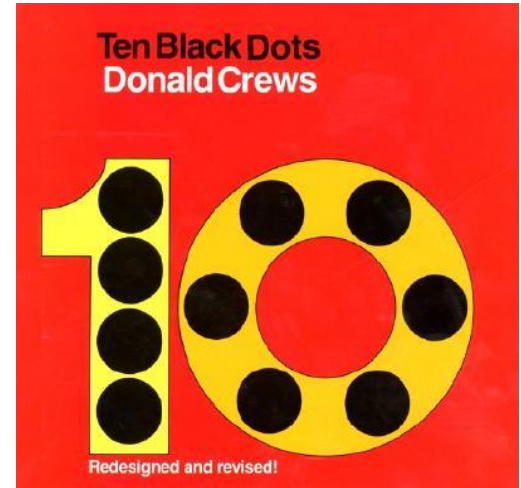


BOOK OF THE MONTH

Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews – One of the most clever counting books around still. This book uses dots creatively, exploring how they can be used in many real world objects and animals. A great book for sharing with any size group and you can vary how you share the story depending on the age of the children and group size. Preschool-First Grade.



Other Books by featured author Donald Crews...

Freight Train – Captures the essence of a train, it's cars, and how it moves in very few words. A great read-aloud for children. Preschool.

Truck – In this wordless story, a truck takes a trip across the country. Toddler-Preschool.

School Bus – With just a few words per page, children can create their own stories about the school bus and it's job of transporting children to school. Toddler – Kindergarten.

Flying – The illustrations capture very well what a journey on the airplane is like and spare text supports the expressive artwork. Toddler – Preschool.

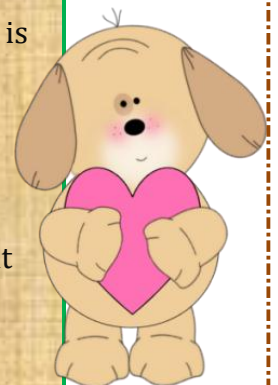
Sail Away – A family takes a trip together out on their small sailboat. Preschool.

Parade – The excitement children experience when they see a parade for the first time is captured well in this delightful story. Toddler – Preschool.

Harbor – Children who love books about transportation will be fascinated to explore the many different parts of a city's harbor. Toddler – Kindergarten.

Bigmama's – A lovely story about a family that takes the train every summer to visit their grandmother on her farm. Preschool-First grade.

Shortcut – In this sequel to "Bigmama's," the children take the train tracks as a shortcut back to the farm, until they hear the train approaching...Preschool-First grade.



Free **STARS** trainings are listed at www.piercecountylibrary.org in the Child Care section of the Parents/Caregivers menu. If you have questions about this newsletter or if you would like to register for **STARS** trainings, call 253-548-3424 or email Susana@piercecountylibrary.org for details.

LITERACY CONNECTIONS

Math AND Writing

Shapes Valentines

Invite your children to make Valentines as part of an art project altogether or in your writing center during choice time. Put out all the basic shapes such as squares, triangles, circles, rectangles, and, of course, hearts! Children can glue various shapes onto construction paper or make their own shapes. What fun it will be to see their creativity!

You can tie-in this activity with sharing some of the books by Donald Crews on the first page since his books often emphasize basic shapes.

These Valentines can be for friends in the class or a special family member – whatever you feel is right for your group. Basic shape knowledge is early math. Cutting, gluing, and drawing pictures on their cards is great practice for writing.

Empathy and Caring for Others

Helping Hearts

Cut out a bunch of small hearts ahead of time. Every time you see a child do something kind, unselfish, caring, generous, etc. write what they did on a heart and post it somewhere in the room. It would be exciting to reserve a whole wall in your room and see if you can fill up the wall with “Helping Hearts” by the end of the month but you can also clear a small space on the wall or bulletin board. Not only does this make a great classroom display, it also teaches children about the importance of helping others. Developing empathy in children is such an important part of their learning not only in the early years but throughout their school careers.

RHYMES OF THE MONTH

THREE VALENTINES

Sung to the tune “Mary Had a Little Lamb”
Three Valentines I have for you,
Have for you, have for you,
Three Valentines I have for you,
Pink, red, and blue

I’ll put them in the mail for you,
Mail for you, mail for you,
I’ll put them in the mail for you,
Pink, red, and blue

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

You are my sunshine,
My only sunshine,
You make me happy
When skies are gray
You’ll never know, dear,
How much I love you
Please don’t take my sunshine away!
**As an added challenge, try singing this song as a round with your class. Half the group starts the song after the first group is halfway done.*

