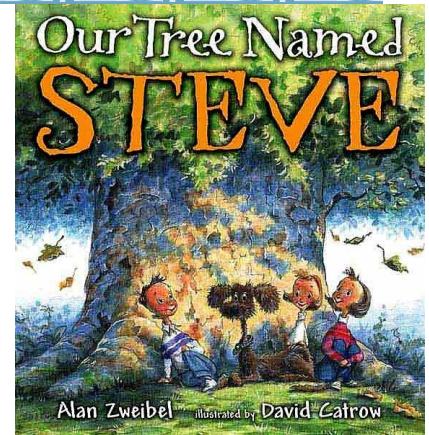


April 2010

Early Learning Newsletter

Pierce County Library System



Book of the Month:

Our Tree Named Steve by Alan Zweibel

A father writes a letter to his children to tell them that their beloved tree has blown down in a storm. He and they remember all the wonderful things about the tree that they named, Steve. This is a wonderful book about trees and loss for preschool and young school age children.

Other fun Tree books:

At the Edge of the Woods by Cynthia Cotten— This simple counting book introduces a woodland ecosystem with vivid pictures and poetic narrative. Older toddlers and Preschoolers.

The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree—by Gail Gibbons—This is a great book—a nice story but filled with lots of information about trees, bees and seasons. Preschool.

Apple Pie Tree by Zoe Hall—Wonderful non-fiction book following a year in the life of an apple pie tree. (Ending with a delicious pie—including the recipe!) Preschool

If I Were a Tree by Dar Hosta— A lovely, poetic book about what it would be like to be a tree. Preschoolers.

Isabel's House of Butterflies by Tony Johnston—A lovely story about a young girl living in Mexico and the tree outside her window that she calls, “La casa de las mariposas”. Preschool and young school age.

A Tree for Me by Nancy Van Laan— Adorable rhyming book about a young boy's search for the perfect “uninhabited” tree. Preschoolers

Rhyme of the Month

Flowers grow like this

*(Push one hand up and open fingers
like a bloom)*

Trees grow like this

*(spread arms out above your head and wiggle
fingers like leaves in the wind)*

And I grow just like this

(Stand tall)

Poem of the Month

A bunny is a quiet pet
A bunny is the best thing yet
A bunny never makes a sound
A bunny's nice to have around

Clare Newberry

April's **Free STARS Training:**
“Taking Literacy Outside”
Saturday April 10, 2010 10am—noon
2 STARS credits



Free STARS trainings are listed at www.piercecountylibrary.org
In the **Child Care** section of the **Parents/Caregivers** menu

Literacy ideas for April:

Vocabulary

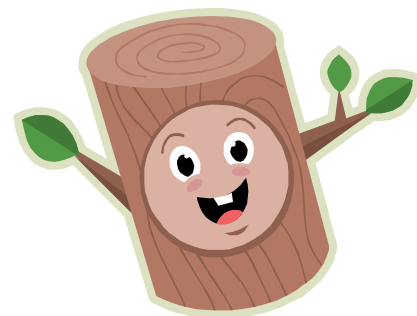
If you visit a local park or wilderness, collect a variety of leaves. Show these to the children at circle time. Name the trees from which they came. Ask the children what makes the leaves different from each other. Encourage them to use adjectives to describe the leaves (ask about their color, shape, size, texture, etc) Perhaps post the leaves on a poster chart and use the words that the children came up with to describe the leaves.

My Friend Tree

My friend tree, my friend tree
Roots on you are like feet on me.
My friend tree, my friend tree
Trunk on you is like trunk on me.
My friend tree, my friend tree
Bark on you is like skin on me.
My friend tree, my friend tree
Branches on you are like arms on me.
My friend tree, my friend tree
Leaves on you are like hands on me.

Use this rhyme to teach children about the parts of a tree in a fun and memorable way.

Phonological Awareness



Phonological Awareness

There are lots of words that rhyme with "tree". Make a chart of all the words that you can think of that rhyme with tree. Then choose different types of trees and find words that rhyme with them, even if they are nonsense words:
Oak, Ash, Elm, Pine, Alder, Maple, Fir, Birch, Holly, Palm

In the spirit of laughter and learning, introduce the children to names of trees that are difficult to rhyme. Make up funny words together:
Oleander, Madrona, Barberry, Bamboo, Jacaranda, Boxwood, Yucca, Dogwood, Persimmon, Locust, Chestnut, Hickory etc.

Have fun!

If you have questions about this newsletter or if you would like to register for STARS trainings, call 253-536-6500 ext 189 or email susana@piercecountylibrary.org for details.