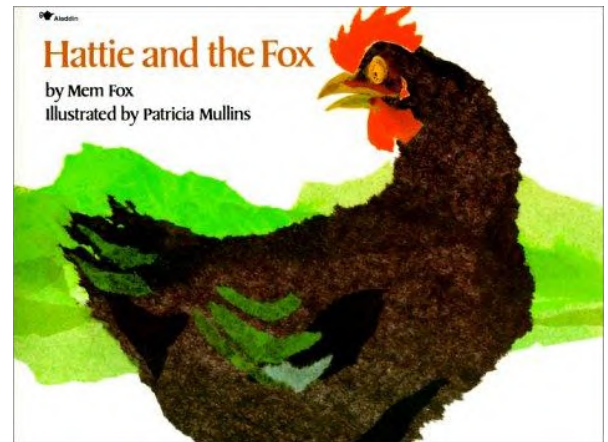


April 2012

Book of the Month

Hattie and the Fox by Mem Fox

Hattie the chicken repeatedly tries to warn the other farm animals that something dangerous is in the bushes. Preschoolers will enjoy the repeated reactions of the animals to Hattie's warning. The suspense of the story will keep them engaged and the amusing ending will delight all listeners.



Other fun books featuring Chickens

Big Fat Hen by Keith Baker – the old nursery rhyme is accompanied by beautiful illustrations. All ages.

The Little Red Hen by Byron Barton—all children deserve to hear this classic folktale read aloud. Preschool.

Book! Book! Book! by Deborah Bruss – an old joke becomes a wonderful picture book for preschoolers and young school-age children. This one will entertain everyone.

Rooster's Off to See the World by Eric Carle – rooster's somewhat edited journey is not only beautifully illustrated, but contains a wonderful introduction to counting. Preschool.

Chicken Little by Rebecca Emberley – modern hilarious version of the *Henny-Penny* story. Young school age.

Across the Stream by Mirra Ginsburg—toddlers will love the story, the rhyme, and the illustrations in this wonderful book about helping one another and finding safety.

Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins – an intrepid hen takes a walk around the farm with a hapless fox on her tail. All ages will enjoy the travels of Rosie and the Fox.

Bob by Tracey Campbell Pearson—preschoolers will love this funny story of a rooster searching for his crow.

Is Everyone Ready for Fun by Jan Thomas – chicken's furniture gets a workout in this funny book for toddlers and preschoolers.

Rhyme of the Month

Chicks

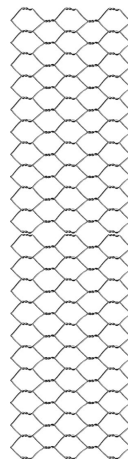
Five eggs and five eggs, that makes ten
(hold up five fingers and then the other five)

Sitting on top is mother hen
(fold hands over one another)

Crackle, crackle, crackle, crackle,
What do I see?

(Move hands as through hatching)

Ten fluffy chickens
As yellow as can be!
(Wiggle all fingers)



Poem of the Month

Chick

Peck, peck, peck,
On the warm, brown egg.
Out comes a neck
Out comes a leg.
How does a chick,
Who's not been about,
Discover the trick
Of how to get out?


Aileen Fisher



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

Learning Ideas for April:

Vocabulary



This month, when you share a book with the children, pick out an interesting word; something that would not be normally used in conversation. After reading the book all the way through together, tell the children that you heard a very interesting word in the book. Begin looking through the pages and tell them that you are hunting for that very interesting word. Ask them if they can guess what the word was. When you get to the page with the word, say, "Here it is!" Say the word out loud and wonder what it means. (Give the children time to make suggestions on its meaning) Take time to talk about the word together. What does it mean, how is it used in the story? How else might one use the word? Etc. Try and use the word often during the week.

Poetry

Since April is National Poetry Month, make an effort to share a poem with the children at least twice a week. The library has hundreds of children's poetry books available for free. Here is a poem to get you started:

The Little Plant

In the heart of a seed
Buried deep, so deep
A dear little plant lay fast asleep
Wake! Said the sunshine
And creep to the light
Wake! Said the voice
Of the raindrops bright.
The little plant heard
And rose to see
What the wonderful outside world might be.

~Kate Louise Brown~

Self Concept

With all the current research about the critical early years in a child's learning life, much emphasis is put on measurable skills: how well one knows the ABC's, how high one can count, how well a child can sort, how well they understand the concept of measurement, etc. But another critical component of the early years is the child's sense of self and their place in the world. And how do we measure a child's development along *that* line?

As caregivers, we can support this critical learning by taking time each day to connect with **each and every** child. Look for opportunities to engage children who might otherwise be left out. Ask questions about each child to remind them that you are interested in them and that you care. Look for additional ways to reach out to each child—engage them in an activity that they love. Celebrate their talents and positive attributes. Let them know that you notice something unique that they bring to the classroom.

Another very effective way of enhancing children's self concept is to follow their lead when choosing topics to discuss or themes to share. Think about what interests the children and try and find a way to build on that interest. This will not only help them feel important, but will engage them more fully in the learning as well.

Have Fun!

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.