

# April 2011

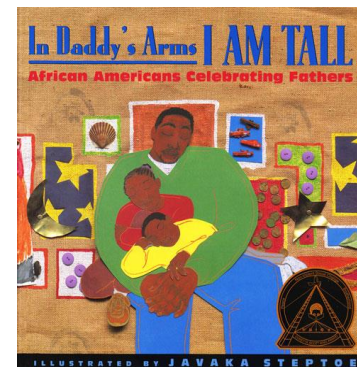
## Early Learning Newsletter



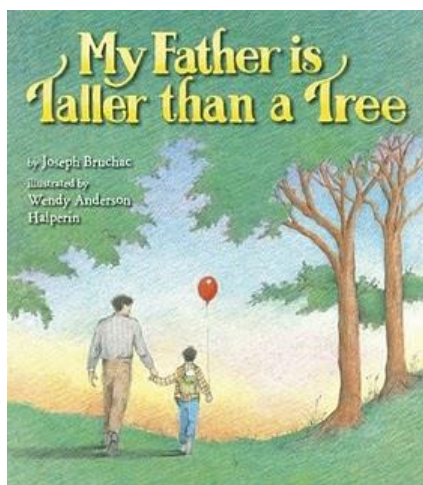
### Books of the Month - Poetry Dedicated to Fathers:

**My Father is Taller than a Tree** by Joseph Bruchac - Thirteen different fathers and sons are shown biking, raking leaves, and just being together in this touching book. Ages 4-8.

**In Daddy's Arms I am Tall** illustrated by Javaka Steptoe - A collection of poems celebrating fatherhood in the African-American experience. Ages 6-10.



### Other Books featuring Poetry...



**Guyku: a Year of Haiku for Boys** by Bob Raczka - A collection of very short poems dedicated to guys everywhere! Ages 6-9.

**In the Wild** by David Elliot - A collection of poems about animals on the African savannah. Ages 4-8.

**Why do Kittens Purr?** By Marion Dane Bauer - Sweet, simple poems that provide answers to the many "why" questions of inquisitive children. Ages 3-7.

**Mirror Mirror: a Book of Reversible Verse** by Marilyn Singer - These poems, based on folk tales, use the exact same words to display opposite meanings from each other. Ages 8-12.

**Muu, Moo! Rimas de Animales/Animal Nursery Rhymes** selected by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy - All of the rhymes in this collection are from Spanish and translated into English. Ages 3-7.

**The Carnival of the Animals: poetry** by Jack Prelutsky, **music** by Camille Saint-Saens - Prelutsky's newest collection of poetry featuring the animals from Saint-Saens music "Carnival of the Animals." A CD of this music is also included. Ages 6-12 but music would be great for ALL ages.

### Rhymes of the Month

#### Music

Mother plays the violin  
Father plays the flute  
Little sister plays the horn  
Toot! Toot! Toot!

#### A Kiss

There's something in my pocket,  
Could it be a moose?  
Could it be a train with a bell and a caboose?  
Could it be a snake or some sticky glue?  
Right here in my pocket is a KISS from me to you!



Free STARS trainings are listed at [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org)  
In the Child Care section of the Parents/Caregivers menu.

## Literacy Connections

### NARRATIVE SKILLS

Encourage children to bring pictures of their families, including their pets, to school. Invite them to tell you about the people and animals in the pictures. Record their thoughts and post both the family pictures and children's descriptions of their family on the bulletin board. Ask open-ended questions like "Who's in this picture?" and "What's happening in this picture?"

For a circle time activity, bring in your own photos and let children ask you questions about what they see in your photos.



### PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

#### Be a STAR!

This activity works especially well if you have a "glitter microphone" for use in your circle times. They are available online at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) - just type in "glitter microphone" - the best \$3-5 dollars you'll ever spend! They are wonderful for resolving disputes between children because you can say, "Brady has the microphone now so it's his turn to talk."

For this activity, teach children a simple poem altogether as a group. Repeat this poem several times a day with the group for at least a week. Then, invite individual children to come sit next to you and recite the poem they've learned using the microphone! Don't force anyone, of course, but encourage them to try...

Do this poem on your fingers:

Here is my father  
Here is my mother  
Here is my brother tall  
Here is my sister  
Here is the baby  
Oh, how I love them all!

## 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](mailto:susana@piercecountylibrary.org) for details.