

Book of the Month:

One Winter's Day by Christina M. Butler

When little Hedgehog's house is destroyed in a winter storm, he heads off to his friend, Badger's house. Along the way his generous nature makes him many new friends. A lovely story of giving for preschoolers.



Other fun Friendship books:

What About Bear? by Suzanne Bloom— Three friends discover the challenges of three playing together rather than two. Preschool.

Your Personal Penguin by Sandra Boynton— Little Penguin wants nothing more than to be Hippo's friend. Toddler

Little Beauty by Anthony Browne— A gorilla and a kitten show that friends can be very different. Preschool and Young School age.

Will You Be My Friend? by Eric Carle—A little mouse goes in search of the perfect friend. Toddler.

Best, Best Friends by Margaret Chodos-Irvine—two best friends struggle with their friendship when one celebrates her birthday at Preschool. Preschoolers.

Help! A Story of Friendship by Holly Keller. Mouse is very frightened of Snake even though others say Snake is friendly. Preschoolers.

I Am Invited to a Party by Mo Willems—When Piggie is invited to a party, she knows that her best friend, Gerald will know exactly how to dress and behave. All Ages.

Rhyme of the Month

I have a little heart
and it goes thump, thump, thump
(Thump your hands gently on your chest)
It keeps on beating when I jump, jump, jump
(Jump up and down)
I get a special feeling when I look at you
(Hug yourself)
It makes me want to give you a Kiss or two
(Blow a couple of Kisses)

Poem of the Month

In the dark of night when all is still
And I'm half sleeping in my bed
It's good to know my Teddy bear
Is snuggling at my head.

Lee Bennett Hopkins



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

Literacy ideas for December:

Narrative Skills

Using a paper or cloth bag, place many small objects into the bag (these may or may not be related to one another). Explain to the children that you are going to create a story together. You are going to pass the bag around and each child will pull an item out of the bag and use that item for inspiration to begin or continue telling the story. You can model this for the children by pulling an item out and beginning the story. Then pass the bag to the child on your right and encourage them to pull out an item and continue the story that you began. Keep the story going until all the items are gone.

This may take some practice, but once the children understand the concept, they will enjoy creating their own unusual stories.

Retelling



If children are going to develop good reading comprehension once they begin reading at school, they must have practice telling and retelling stories. Circle time is a natural time for you to help children retell the stories that you

have shared with them.

For this activity, you will need a flashlight and a story with which the children are familiar.

After reading the story with the children, explain that you would like them to retell the story to you and that you will shine the flashlight on the rug in front of them when it is their turn to tell the story.

Shine the flashlight in front of a child, allow them to begin the story and when they come to a stopping place, move the light to the next child and encourage them to continue the story.

This may take some practice at first, but in time it might become very popular!



Teacher Well Being

The Holiday season can be one that we look forward to all year, or it can be one that we dread: hectic, expensive and pressurized, we might get caught up in desperation shopping or financial anxiety. Make sure you take time for yourself this season. Take a hot bath, watch a comedy on television, read a fluffy book, meet a friend for coffee or tea, or bundle up and simply take a quiet walk. The work you do every day with children is so important. We want you all to be rested, healthy and happy.

Happy Holidays!

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.