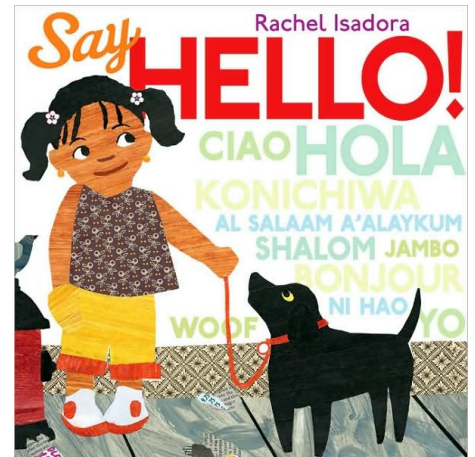




December 2013



Book of the Month

Say Hello by Rachel Isadora

Young Carmelita and her dog greet many different people on her block in this wonderfully multicultural look at a city neighborhood. With large, vibrant illustrations and simple text in many languages, this book is ideal for storytimes for young preschoolers on up.

Other fun books featuring *Neighbors and Community*

Only the Stars by Dee Boyd – A young girl and her grandmother figure out a way for her to still see the stars in the daytime. Preschool and young school-aged children.

Follow Carl by Alexandra Day – A group of children play follow-the-leader to Carl the dog and visit places in their neighborhood in the vivid wordless book. Toddlers and Preschool.

Only One Neighborhood by Marc Harshman – This lovely book shows many places in a neighborhood and ties them all together with a wish for peace. Preschoolers.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star illustrated by Sylwia Long – A charming version of the old song. Preschool.

Backseat ABC by Maria Van Lieshout – This alphabet book looks at the many signs we see in our communities. Toddlers and Preschoolers.

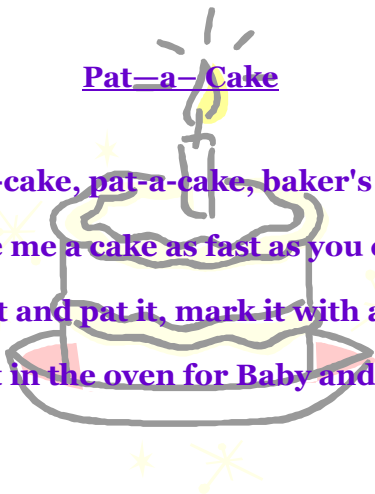
Around the Neighborhood: A Counting Lullaby by Sarah L. Thomson– This counting book reframes the classic "Over in the Meadow" rhyme featuring various creatures in a neighborhood.

What's Inside? Neighborhood by What's Inside – Cute board book with open-out pages showing many community places. Toddlers.

Rhyme of the Month

Pat-a-Cake

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man
Bake me a cake as fast as you can.
Roll it and pat it, mark it with a "B"
Put it in the oven for Baby and me!



Poem of the Month

Grandpa Bear's Lullaby

The night is long
But fur is deep.
You will be warm
In winter sleep.
The cave is dark
But dreams are bright
And they will serve
As winter light.
Sleep, my little cubs, sleep.

Jane Yolen



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

Learning Ideas for December:

Mailbox Match

Cut out several “mailboxes” using gray paper. Put a number, letter, or shape on the flag of the mailboxes. Next get several envelopes (or cut-outs) and put a corresponding number, letter, or shape on the mail. Have your children match the mail with the corresponding mailbox. A great game to help children practice what they have learned already about shapes, letters, and numbers. Tailor the difficulty of the game to your children’s individual level.

For added fun and difficulty, invite your children to create their own mailbox matches. Can their friends make a match out of what they created?



Corner Grocery Store

Many neighborhoods have a small, local markets where people can buy their groceries. Set up a classroom market in your free play area.

Bring in some paper or plastic money, plastic food, dishes, and other items that could be for sale at the store. If you have a cash register, use this to hold the money (a play register or an older actual cash register would be great fun). Print out different signs for your store—“produce,” “dairy,” “deli,” “bakery,” “canned food aisle.”

After all this has been set up—and the children can help you with the set up—let children run their store however they would like and have fun. If you want to join in with their play, model being a customer in their store. But let the children take the lead. Children learn so much about their world and their neighborhoods through play!

Friendship Tree

As a group, share good things or good qualities about each friend in the classroom. Write down all the nice things that children say about each other. You can also add in your own thoughts. Transfer these ideas—along with each child’s name—onto pretty, colorful pieces of paper and display them around your room. If you have a tree, hang them on your tree. You can also post them on a bulletin board, hang them from the ceiling, etc. A lovely and heartwarming decoration to have on display during the month of December!



Happy Holidays!

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.