

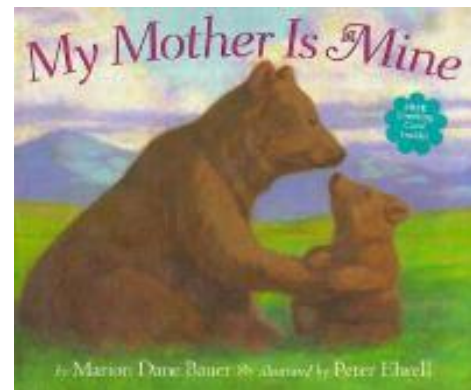
February 2011

Early Learning Newsletter



Book of the Month:

My Mother is Mine by Marion Dane Bauer – Featuring stunning illustrations, in simplicity this book captures the unending bond between mothers and their children.



Other Books featuring Mommies and Children...

Honk! By **Chris L. Demarest** – A baby goose is looking for his mommy in this simple, lift-the-flap story. Toddler.

Charlie Chick by **Nick Denchfield and Ant Parker** – If you think Charlie the Chick is big, wait until you see his mom! Toddler and Preschool.

No Matter What by **Emma Dodd** – Lovely story about a mother elephant's unconditional love. Toddler.

Who Loves the Little Lamb? By **Lezlie Evans** – No matter what children do or fail to do, mommies can help pick up the pieces. Toddler and Preschool.

Don't You Feel Well, Sam? By **Amy Hest** – Comforting story about a mother bear who helps her cub when he doesn't feel well. Toddler and Preschool.

The Kissing Hand by **Audrey Penn** – A story to help reassure those children who may deal with separation anxiety that they can take their mommy with them throughout their day. Preschool.

Alfie Runs Away by **Kenneth Cadow** – The mom in this story has the patience of a saint! Preschool.

All the Things I Love About You by **LeUyen Pham** – A mom tells what she loves about her little boy. Preschool.

Rhymes of the Month

For Baby

Little fingers,
Little toes,
Little mouth,
Little nose,
Little ears,
With which to hear,
Little baby,
So precious and dear.

Under the Darkness

Under the darkness,
There are stars.
Under the stars,
There is a tree.
Under the tree,
There is a blanket.
And under the blanket,
There is me!



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



Literacy Connections

NARRATIVE SKILLS

Class Recipe Book

Encourage families to bring snacks to class. You can provide them with a list of snack possibilities to choose from or let them make their own snack. This wouldn't need to be done very often but once every few months per family. Take a picture of the child whose family brought in the snack standing next to the snack table.

As a class, create a simple recipe for each snack a child brings in. Talk through what you have to do first, second, third, to make this recipe. Sequencing and ordering of events is part of how children learn to make sense of stories and understand them. Practice with a recipe!

Put these class-made recipes together into a book to give to all families at the end of the year. Not only is it a great memory book for children, it is also a simple cookbook for families.

LETTER AWARENESS

Name Alphabet Cards

Talk with your children about the letter that their name begins with. Together, make the sound of the letter. As a group, count how many children's names begin with "A?" "B?" and so on. This is a simple activity to expose children to letters and the sounds they make and it is something you can do on a daily basis.

As an extra activity, write each letter of the alphabet on a card and, on separate cards, write each child's name. Invite children to draw a picture of themselves or use a photograph from home to illustrate their card. Post their names and pictures under the letter that their name begins with for a fun, learning display.



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.