

## January 2012 From the Pierce County Library System

### Book of the Month

Mabela the Clever by Margaret Read MacDonald

This excellent retelling of a folktale from Limba, Africa features a clever little mouse who outwits a hungry cat. Rhythmic writing, a repeated refrain, and a story with humor and wisdom make this a favorite with preschoolers and young school age children everywhere. (And Teachers too!)



### Other fun books about Mice

**Little Mouse's Big Secret** by Eric Battut— A sweet book about a little mouse trying to keep his apple treat a secret. Toddlers and Preschoolers.

**Do You Want to Be My Friend?** by Eric Carle— This nearly wordless book with Carle's trademark paper cut illustrations will hold appeal for all children.

**Lunch** by Denise Fleming—A simple book about a very hungry mouse. All Ages.

**Lily's Purple Plastic Purse** by Kevin Henkes—The irrepressible Lily shows off her prized possession in this appealing story. Preschool.

**Mouse Mess** by Linnea Asplind Riley—A mouse creates havoc in the kitchen in this colorful book for all ages.

**Frederick** by Leo Lionni—A little mouse saves up something very special for the long winter. Preschool.

**Mouse Paint** by Ellen Stohl Walsh—A perfect introduction to color and color mixing, this is a classic for toddlers and preschoolers.

### Rhyme of the Month

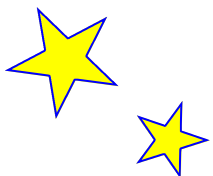
Here's a little mousie  
Peeking through a hole  
*(imitate a mouse peeking)*  
Peek to the left  
*(look left)*  
Peek to the right  
*(look right)*  
Pull your head back in  
*(cover your face with paws)*  
There's a cat in sight!  
*(make meow sound)*



### Poem of the Month

I think mice are rather nice  
Their tales are long  
Their faces small  
They haven't any chins at all  
Their ears are pink  
Their faces white  
They run about the house at night  
They nibble things they shouldn't touch  
And no one seems to like them much  
But I think mice are rather nice

Rose Fyleman



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

# Literacy Ideas for January:



## Listening

Listening is an important skill to encourage in preschoolers. During the morning greeting or during circle time, choose a word or two to be the “magic word”. Then decide on the movement that goes with that word. Choose a word (or encourage the children to choose a word) that is not likely to be used in regular conversation. For example, “bumbershoot” is your magic word. And the movement is “put your hands on top of your head” or “put your hands on top of your head and hop up and down twice”. Practice saying the magic word and performing the movement a few times. Then tell the children that during the day, whenever they hear the magic word, they should perform the movement. Make an effort to say the magic word shortly after breaking from circle time and then throughout the day. You may have to remind the children subtly with “I wonder who is listening?”

## Talking

It may seem odd to promote talking with young children but we have many very valid reasons for encouraging you to do just that! When you engage a young child in a conversation, you model give and take, listening and talking, body language, vocabulary use, sentence structure and a broader experience with the world. And more importantly, when you engage a young child in a conversation, you are showing that child that you value them, you think they are important and worthy of your time. That building of relationship is a key elements in creating a healthy learning environment. Here are some ideas for beginning a conversation:

- What is your favorite... (*fill in the blank*)
- Use the phrase, “I wonder” to begin a conversation ie—“I wonder why so many people have dogs as pets. Do you like dogs”
- Comment positively on a piece of their clothing.
- Describe what you did that morning so far and ask them what they have done so far.

## Reading and Writing

Talk to the children about greeting cards, letters, and notes. What do they look like? What do they say? Who do we send them to? Why do we send them? Etc.



Set out pens and pencils, markers, perhaps paint, and lots of paper. Use different kinds of paper if possible—brown paper, index cards, construction paper, etc. Tell the children that you have set up a Greeting Card factory. Encourage them to think of someone they would like to send something to and what they should make. When they have finished, talk about the creations together. Will the cards need to be mailed? How do we get them where we want them to go? What does it take to mail something? Etc.

Art and writing!

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