Book of the Month
The Teddy Bears Picnic by Jimmy Kennedy – In this classic story-song, teddy bears from all around spend the day picnicking and having fun together! A lovely story to read or sing aloud with a group. For toddlers and preschoolers.

Other Books about PICNICS...

Picnic by Emily Arnold McCully – In this wordless picture book, a family of mice set out for a summer picnic, not realizing that they have left behind one of their children! Ages 3-5.

The Bears' Picnic by Stan and Jan Berenstain – After much searching, Papa Bear finally finds a perfect spot for a picnic. Ages 4-7 (good beginning reader).

The Picnic by Ruth Brown – Told from the point of view of the underground animals that have been disturbed by people out for a picnic. Ages 3-7.

We're Going on a Picnic by Pat Hutchins – Three friends – hen, goose, and duck – their basket filled with food, look for a place to have a picnic. What they don’t realize is that, while they’re looking, their food is disappearing. Ages 3-5.

The Pigs Picnic by Keiko Kasza – On his way to ask Miss Pig to a picnic, Mr. Pig gets all kinds of advice on ways to improve his appearance but winds up looking so different that Miss Pig doesn’t even recognize him! Ages 3-5.

The Stray Dog by Marc Simont – While picnicking at their favorite spot, a family discovers a dog that appears to be a stray. Ages 4-7.

After reading The Teddy Bear's Picnic above, have your own teddy bear’s picnic with your class.

• Ask each child to bring a stuffed animal from home.
• Set up picnic blankets outside.
• Make special picnic food like teddy-bear-shaped sandwiches, teddy grahams, watermelon, lemonade.

Have fun!

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

Cooking Together = Narrative Skills (telling and describing stories)

Believe it or not, cooking with children is a pre-reading skill! Understanding the many different parts to a recipe can help children understand that stories also have many parts to them (beginning, middle, and end). When children assemble a recipe with you, talk about the different steps you take to put the recipe together - (“First, we cut the lemons in half. Then, we squeeze the juice from the lemons.”)

Recipe to try: Pink Lemonade
From Mommy's Little Helper Cookbook by Karen Brown
Makes 2 glasses

2 lemons
½ cup sugar
2 cups water
2 Tablespoons maraschino cherry juice
Ice cubes
2 maraschino cherries

1). Cut lemons in half on a cutting board (grown ups).
2). Squeeze the juice from the lemons (children).
3). Pour the lemon juice into a pitcher (children).
4). Add sugar, water, cherry juice, and mix well (children).
5). Place ice cubes in each glass and pour lemonade over ice.
6). Top each glass with a cherry (children).

Rhymes of the Month

Picnic Time
Going on a picnic
Gotta pack a lunch
What should we bring to munch, munch, munch?

Have children suggest different foods
Repeat the chant after each child suggests something to bring

5 Hungry Ants
5 hungry ants, marching in a line,
They came upon a picnic where they could dine,
They marched into the salad,
They marched into the cake,
They marched into the pepper,
Uh-oh! That was a mistake!
AAAAAAAAACCCCHHHHOOOOOOOO!!!

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.