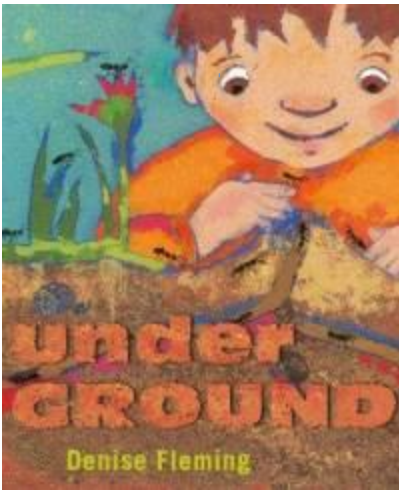


# June 2013

## Early Learning Newsletter



### BOOK OF THE MONTH

**Underground by Denise Fleming** – In simple language, this story features many animals that live all or part of their lives underground. The illustrations highlight what life looks like both above and below the ground simultaneously and readers can look up more information about each animal at the end. Ages 3-6.

### Books featuring UNDERGROUND ANIMALS...

**A Home for a Bunny** by Margaret Wise Brown – Bunny searches for a home and finds just the right place...”under rock, under stone, down under the ground.” Toddler and Preschool.

**Runaway Bunny** by Margaret Wise Brown – Classic tale of a mother rabbit’s love for her little one with some beautiful illustrations of their underground burrow. Toddler and Preschool.

**Diary of a Worm** by Doreen Cronin – Humorous school-age story about the adventures of a worm and his friends.

**Moonlight** by Helen V. Griffith – Moonlight can slide anywhere, even into rabbit’s mostly underground home. Toddler and Preschool.

**Hey, Little Ant** by Phillip and Hannah Hoose – This book is about the choices we make in our life and helps children think about how their decisions affect others. A wonderful story to read and then discuss with preschool or school-age children.

**Animals Under Our Feet** by Cindy McKay – Wonderful informational book that is designed for parents and children to read together. Real photos and interesting facts. Young School-age.

**The Great Fuzz Frenzy** by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel – What is that strange, fuzzy, green thing that falls down into the tunnels of the prairie dog’s home? Preschool and School-age.

**The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse** retold and illustrated by Helen Ward – A lovely new version of this folk tale – the illustration are works of art. Preschool and Young School-age.

### RHYMES OF THE MONTH

#### Five Hungry Ants

Five 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!  
AAACCCHHOOOOOOOOO!!

#### Baby Mice

from *Knock at the Door* by Kay Choroa  
Where are the baby mice?  
Squeak, squeak, squeak, (cover eyes)  
I cannot see them  
Peek, peek, peek, (peek-a-boo)  
Here they come from a hole in the wall  
1-2-3-4-5...that’s all! (count fingers)

# LITERACY CONNECTIONS

## Science and Math Learning

### Above and Below the Ground

This is a great science and math activity for children because it involves learning about animals that live under ground through sorting! Using the template from the web page

**THE HOMESCHOOL DEN** -

<http://www.parents.com/blogs/homeschool-den/tag/animals-live-above-or-under-ground/> (click on the link titled "Where do animals live? Above or below ground?"), and print the great pictures from the template.

Ask your children to sort which animals live above ground and which live below ground. Some animals actually live both above and below ground and you can discuss this as a large group using the information from the above web page.

This activity would make a great **large group activity** for younger children and **table time activity** for older children.

Here are some examples of animals that live above ground, below ground, or both.

**Above ground** – robin, prairie dog, groundhog, snail, bumblebee, butterfly.

**Below ground** – earth worm, ants, baby rabbits in their burrow, baby foxes, grubs, moles.

**BOTH** – turtle, cicada

If you want to find your own pictures of each animal, go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and in the search box, simply type in the name of the animal. Then, click "images." You will find all kinds of interesting photos for your children to sort. Have fun!



## MICE THEME – LITERACY AND SCIENCE LEARNING

Read a book about mice together as a class, talk about where mice live and show real photos of their homes in nature, and then create an adorable snack in the shape of a little mouse.

### Book ideas:

*Lunch* by Denise Fleming

*Mabela the Clever* by Margaret Read MacDonald

*Mouse Mess* by Linnea Riley

*Mouse Paint* or *Mouse Count* by Ellen Stoll Walsh

### Snack idea:

Let your children use a heart cookie cutter to cut a piece of bread. Have them then spread jam or cream cheese on the bread and fold it in half (this makes a mouse shape). Then add a chocolate chip or raisin eye and a licorice tail. Adorable and yummy!



Free *STARS* trainings are listed at [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org) in the Child Care section of the Parents/Caregivers menu. If you have questions about this newsletter or our *STARS* trainings, call 253-548-3424 or email [Susana@piercecountylibrary.org](mailto:Susana@piercecountylibrary.org) for details.