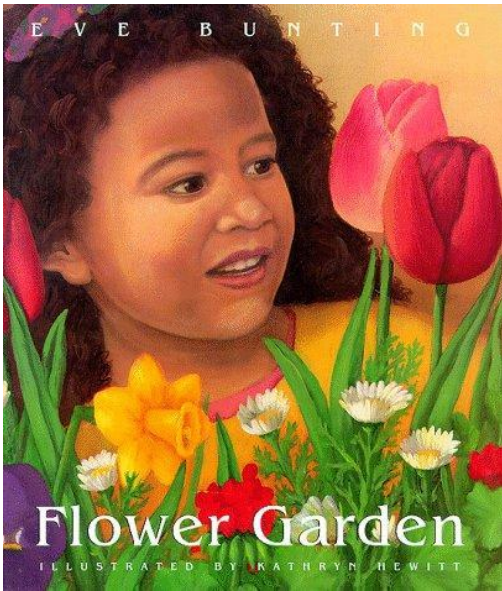


March 2012

Early Learning Newsletter



Books of the Month -

Flower Garden by Eve Bunting – A little girl and her father grow a lovely window box garden as a surprise for her mother's birthday. Ages 3-7.

A Seed is Sleepy by Diana Hutts Aston – This beautifully illustrated book introduces children to a huge variety of seeds and plants. Ages 6-9.

Other Books featuring Gardens and Plants...

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss – Despite the fact that everyone else

doubts whether the carrot seed will actually grow, one little boy never gives up on it. Ages 3-7.

One Little Seed by Elaine Greenstein – Describes the process of a seed growing into a plant in very simple words. Ages 2-5.

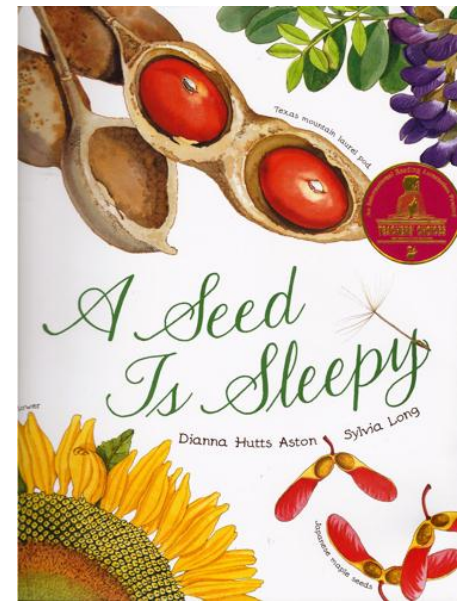
Up, Down, and Around by Katherine Ayres – A fun introduction to gardening! Ages 2-5.

Growing Colors by Bruce McMillan – Simple photographs show how fruits and vegetables grow in a rainbow of colors! Ages 3-7.

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert – Beautiful flowers! Ages 3-6.

My Garden by Kevin Henkes – A little girl imagines what her garden would be like if she could grow whatever she wanted (jelly bean bushes and chocolate rabbits!)

The Curious Garden by Peter Brown – A little boy named Liam takes care of a small garden in the middle of a gray city, which eventually expands until the entire city is transformed from gray to green! Ages 5-8.



Rhymes of the Month

I'll Plant a Little Seed

(Tune of I'm a Little Teapot)

I'll plant a little seed in the dark,
dark ground.

Out comes the yellow sun, big and round.

Down comes the cool rain, soft and slow.

Up comes the little seed

Grow, grow, grow!

(another fun song to act out)

What Do You Suppose?

(make actions suit words)

What do you suppose?

A bee sat on my nose!

Then what do you think?

He gave a great big wink!

And said, "I beg your pardon,

I thought you were a garden!"

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



Literacy Connections

TALKING and SCIENCE

Seed Collection

Gather seeds from outdoors (pine cones, maple seeds, dandelion seeds) and indoors - from fruits and veggies. Sort the seeds by type, size, color, etc. in an empty egg carton.

Let the children sort the seeds and suggest other ways of sorting as well.

*You can also play a matching game where children match the seeds with pictures of the corresponding fruit/vegetable or plants. Talk with children about where different fruits and vegetables come from or look for seeds in books about trees and plants.

Oftentimes, children may not be aware of where their food comes from before it ends up in the grocery store.



TALKING and SCIENCE

Growing Nasturtiums

Nasturtiums are incredibly hearty plants and grow very quickly and easily.

They are edible in salad (a little spicy) and they have colorful flowers. Plus their seeds are larger so they are easier for little hands to plant.

You can get seeds from the grocery store or any home improvement store. Give each child their own seed to plant (or seeds depending on how many children are in your class). Water them regularly and watch them grow!

This is a fun process to talk about with children because they can watch it happen and observe changes day by day.



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.