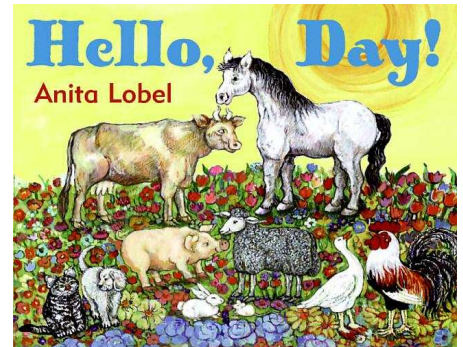


Book of the Month:

Hello Day! by Anita Lobel. This intricately illustrated book about a day on the farm will appeal to children of all ages (and adults too!). The words are very simple but the illustrations are packed with detail. A must read for everyone!



Other fun books about Farms

Duck on a Bike by David Shannon—This hilarious book about a duck, who takes a wild ride on a bike, will have great appeal for preschoolers and young school aged children.

Hattie and the Fox by Mem Fox—Hattie the hen tries to warn all the barnyard animals that a fox is lurking close by. Preschool.

Funny Farm by Mark Teague. Hilarious chronicle of a young pup's first visit to his cousin's farm. Young School Age.

This is the Farmer by Nancy Tafuri— A very simple introduction to the farm and all its animals with gorgeous illustrations. Infants and Toddlers.

First the Egg by Laura Vaccaro Seeger—Another wonderful concept book by this imaginative author. (What came first, the chicken or the egg?) All ages.

Farmer Duck by Martin Waddell—Funny picture book about a duck who tires of always doing **all** the farm work. Preschool.

Noisy Barn by Harriet Ziefert—Adorable book for infants and toddlers about a, you guessed it, noisy barn.

Rhyme of the Month

Five little farmers get up early each day
There's work to be done, no time for play
The first little farmer goes to milk the cow
The second little farmer gets ready to plow
The third little farmer feed the hens and chicks
The fourth little farmer has gates to fix
The fifth little farmer sells vegetables in town
Five busy farmers work
Until the sun goes down

Poem of the Month

Cow sounds heavy.
Cow
Standing in the meadow,
chewing
A big fur box on legs.
Mooing

Karla Kuskin



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

Literacy ideas for May

Print Awareness

Learning to care for books is critical to developing a love and respect for books.

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Model washing your hands before handling books and explain what you are doing.
- Model careful turning of the pages and let the children practice gentle turns.
- Emphasize that we *never* write, scribble, glue, or cut the pages of a book! We would never do that to a friend and books can be great friends.
- Show bookmarks to the children. Point out the fact that because they are flat, they do not hurt the book. Do not deface the book by folding down a page corner.
- Involve the children in a discussion on how to properly store books and care for them.

Listening—Taking Turns

At circle time at the end of the day, using a stuffed animal or puppet, model telling the puppet what happened in your day today. Be as detailed as possible—what you felt like when you woke up, what your trip to work was like, interesting observations you had during the day, events that stood out for you etc. Try to keep the focus on you and not on what the children did. Explain to the children that the puppet is now going to go around the circle and listen to what happened to each child during the day.

For some children, you may need to ask open ended questions in order to flesh out their narrative.

Remind the children when necessary that everyone will have an opportunity to talk and that only the person with the puppet may narrate to the group.

This may take some practice, but it's a *very* important skill for young children to master!



Letter
Awareness

Print or cut out large individual letters of the children's names using uppercase letters for the first letter in the name. Using one name at a time, drop all that name's letters randomly onto the floor or a table and encourage the children to "solve the mystery" of whose name is jumbled there. At first you may need to remind them as a clue, that a name begins with an uppercase letter. After the first few names, the children will hopefully use the uppercase letter clue on their own.

If the children enjoy this activity, you can expand it to names of teachers, siblings, parents, relatives, pets, places, etc.

This idea is from the wonderful book, [Bonding While Learning](#) by Gary Lee Kosman

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.