

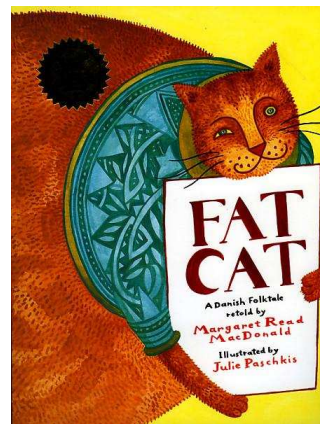
October 2010

Early Learning Newsletter

Book of the Month:

Fat Cat: A Danish Folktale by Margaret Read MacDonald

This well told tale follows a cat who eats everything—even his owner! But do not fear, there is a happy ending. Preschoolers and young schoolage children will adore this hilarious book and request many, many readings of it!



Other fun **Cat** books:

Mrs. McTats and Her Houseful of Cats by Alyssa Capucilli. An alphabet of cats (and one dog) fill the pages of this adorable book for preschoolers. The alphabet, counting, and humor, what more could you ask?

Feathers for Lunch by Lois Ehlert—a classic story of a cat and his hunt for a bird meal. Great for babies, toddlers and preschoolers.

Millions of Cats by Wanda Gag. Simple line drawings accompany this timeless tale of a man, a woman and millions of cats. Preschoolers.

Rotten Ralph by Jack Gantos—Yes, Ralph the cat is rotten, but preschoolers will love him as much as his patient owner. A naughty but very fun book for preschoolers.

Kitten's First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes—This gorgeous black and white book with simple text will appeal to everyone. A Caldecott winner! All ages.

The Grannyman by Judith Schachner. An old cat feels almost ready to die, that is until his owners bring home a feisty new kitten. A charming book for preschoolers.

I Love Cats by Sue Stainton—adorable illustrations and a rhyming text make this a lovely cat book for toddlers and preschoolers both.

Rhyme of the Month

Soft Kitty, warm Kitty
(pat your forearm as though it's a kitten)

Little ball of fur
(keep patting)

Happy Kitty, sleepy Kitty
Purr, purr, purr

Soft puppy, warm puppy
(scratch your forearm as though it's a puppy)

Little ball of fluff
Happy puppy, sleepy puppy
Ruff, ruff, ruff

Poem of the Month

There's music in a hammer
There's music in a nail
There's music in a pussycat
When you step upon her tail
Meeeeooooowwwww!

Traditional



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

Literacy ideas for October:

Phonological Awareness

Tongue twisters are not only really fun to say, they are a great way to develop phonological awareness skills in young children. We have many tongue twister books at the library. You can also find hundreds of them online. This month try working on one tongue twister every day. Perhaps send printed copies home so families can join in the fun. Here's one to get you started:

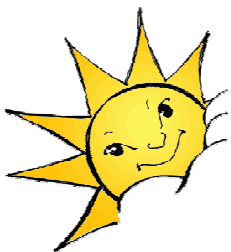
Silly Sally swiftly shooed seven silly sheep.
The seven silly sheep Silly Sally shooed shilly-shallied south.
These sheep shouldn't sleep in a shack;
Sheep should sleep in a shed.

Whew!

A very important part of learning how to read is being able to predict where a sentence may be going. Prediction is also a vital part of reading comprehension. Pausing to ask a question during the reading of the story can help develop children's prediction skills. The next time you read a story to the children, stop at some point and ask the group what they think will happen next.

Give the children time to formulate answers and try to fully acknowledge their responses and ideas. This sort of interaction during circle time can really help invigorate the children and keep them engaged in the circle time. (Plus, their answers are often very creative and entertaining.)

Prediction



Letter Awareness

As a nice Autumn craft (while still developing letter awareness skills!) give the children pieces of dark construction paper in a variety of shades. Using pieces of yarn or rope, letters cut from paper or even small magnetic letters, spell out the children's names on the paper and gently set the papers in the sun.

(Try to place them in a location where they won't be bumped or jostled) Check the papers after a day or so. When the letters are removed, you should see them clearly as the sun will have bleached the construction paper around them.

Now you have a sunny name picture!

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.