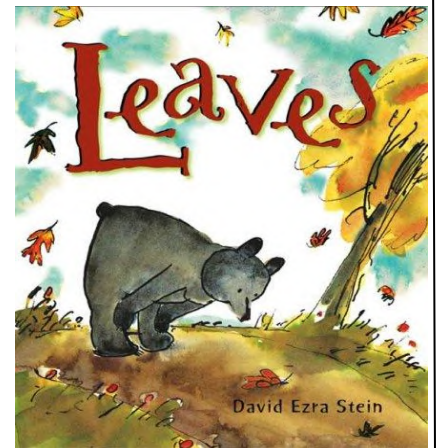


October 2012

Book of the Month

Leaves by David Ezra Stein

A little bear begins to worry about a tree when its leaves change color and fall from the branches. This sweet book appeals to preschoolers since they understand what is happening to the tree before the little bear does. Nice illustrations and a gentle story make this a wonderful choice for the Fall. Preschool and young school-age.



Other fun books featuring *Leaves and Autumn*

Every Autumn Comes the Bear by Jim Arnosky – An evocative book about a big, black bear. Wonderful illustrations. Preschool.

Time To Sleep by Denise Fleming—Woodland animals communicate to one another about the coming of winter in this wonderful book for preschoolers.

Leaf Jumpers by Carole Gerber—Fun, rhyming text describes a variety of leaves and what you can do with them. Toddlers and preschoolers.

Fall Leaves Fall by Zoe Hall—Very simple text and illustrations show leaves through the seasons. Toddlers and Preschoolers.

Fall is Not Easy by Marty Kelly—A tree struggles with the Fall season. Funny! Preschool.

Who Loves the Fall by Bob Raczka—Very simple rhyming text conveys the many things we love about Fall. All ages.

Let's Look at Fall by Sarah Scheutte—gorgeous photographs show the many beautiful aspects of Autumn. All ages.

Rhyme of the Month

Leaves

Leaves are falling all around

(Flutter hands downward)

Falling softly to the ground

(Place index finger on lips)

Falling, falling,

Falling, down.

(Quietly and slowly lower yourselves to the ground)

Poem of the Month

Autumn Concert

In the evening
In the thickets
There are orchestras
Of crickets,
And you never
Need buy tickets
To hear concerts
by the crickets.

Aileen Fisher

Free STARS trainings are listed at www.piercecountylibrary.org

Due to the new smaller class size requirement, registration priority will be given to providers enrolled in our "Ready for Books" program or whose child cares are in the Pierce County Library service district (unincorporated Pierce County addresses).

We apologize for the inconvenience and we will do our best to accommodate as many providers as possible.

We appreciate your patience and understanding!

Learning Ideas for October:

Attributes

Gather together many items that evoke "Autumn". Place them in front of you at Circle time. Tell the children you are going to compare and contrast all these items. As you pick up each item, ask the children if it is 'heavy' or 'light', 'large' or 'small', 'dark' or 'light', 'alive' or 'not alive'(inanimate), 'smooth' or 'rough', 'shiny' or 'dull', etc. Engage the children in a discussion about the objects. Where do we find them? What do they do? Etc.

Potential objects:

Pumpkins, apples, leaves, acorns, rocks, seeds, garden tools, an umbrella, a kite, cinnamon stick, candle, knitted scarf/ hat, a mushroom, moss, etc.

Go Outside!

As the weather cools, our inclination may be to stay indoors more. But children benefit greatly from time spent in the fresh, crisp air of Autumn. Here are some easy outdoor ideas:

- If it's dry, set a blanket on the grass, lie down on your backs and watch the clouds.
- While on a walk, collect objects for a possible Autumn art project—acorns, leaves, sticks and pebbles etc. These can either be glued onto colored paper or placed into an egg carton for sorting or discussion.
- Ask the children to look at a local tree and talk about what it looks like. Talk together about how the tree is changing.
- Step outside without jackets for a moment. Ask the children to describe what they feel—how can they tell it's cold? Where do they especially feel the cold? What does it make them want to do? Return inside and repeat the same routine with the warmth of the indoors.

Recording Leaf Observations

Supplies: clipboard, paper, pen, leaves from outdoors.

Gather one or two leaves from outside. At circle time, pass each leaf around the circle and ask the children to "make at least one observation about the leaf" (its color, its texture, its size, qualities in its appearance etc.) You may have to ask some general questions to get them started. Using the paper and clipboard (to model observational recording) write down each child's name and dictate each child's "observation" beside their name. Post the paper in the science or seasonal area of the classroom. Or begin an "observational journal" for the class. Put the leaves out for additional exploration.



Have Fun!

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.