

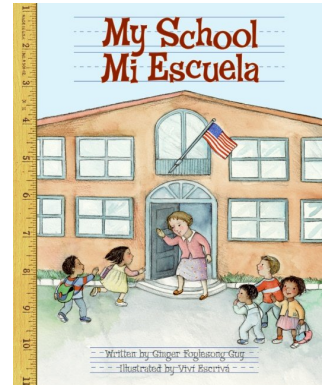
September 2011

From the Pierce County Library System

Book of the Month:

My School: Mi Escuela by Ginger Fogelsong Guy

This is a nice book for classrooms with young Spanish speakers or English speakers who would like to learn a few words in Spanish. With wonderful illustration and only a few words per page, this book may be enjoyed by everyone.



Other fun books about School

School Bus by Donald Crews—Very simple and bright book about this very familiar mode of transport. Great for all ages.

First Day Jitters by Julie Danneberg. The surprise ending makes this a perfect choice for young school aged children. This is a laugh out loud favorite.

School by Emily McCully— A wordless book all about going to school. Preschool.

Rain School by James Rumford—Children in Chad, Africa have to build their school in the beginning of each year! Preschool and young school age.

Richard Scarry's Great Big Schoolhouse by Richard Scarry—Scarry's wonderful illustrations cover almost every aspect of school. Preschool and young school age.

Someone Says by Carole Lexa Schaefer—The repeating phrase, "we do!" underscores all the things children do at school. Preschool.

Hurray for Pre-K! by Ellen B. Senisi—Simple text and adorable photographs introduce children to the daily activities at a preschool. Comparing the book's activities and spaces with your own classroom could spark some great conversation. Preschool.

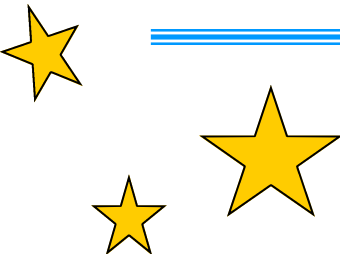
Rhyme of the Month

Two little houses all closed up tight
(make fists)
Open up the windows and let in the light
(open fists)
Ten little school kids tall and straight
(wiggle fingers)
Ready for school at half past eight
(walk with fingers)

Poem of the Month

Now I can catch and throw a ball
And spell
Cat. Dog.
And Pig.
I have finished being small
And started
Being big.

Dorothy Aldis



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

Literacy ideas for September

Print Awareness

For children who are experienced with books and reading, test their knowledge by reading incorrectly. Tell the children that you are going to read a story. When you begin reading, read the words on the page backward and run your finger backward along the page as you read. When the children correct you or protest that the story doesn't make sense. Show them the direction that you are reading (in this case from right to left) and say, "Isn't this the way I'm supposed to read?" Encourage them to show you the proper direction. Run your finger from left to right as you read and ask them, "Is this the way to read in English?" On another occasion, you can do a similar activity by reading from the bottom of the page to the top. This will help reinforce the children's knowledge about reading in English.

Letter Awareness

- ◆ Using an alphabet that is posted in your room, an alphabet book, or an alphabet printed online, show the children letters and have them act them out using their whole bodies. Encourage them to work in teams if they like.
- ◆ If there is a picture associated with that letter, encourage them to act out the object pictured.
- ◆ Brainstorm together other things that begin with that letter and have them act those out as well.
- ◆ Spread the children out physically. Call out a letter and encourage the children to trace the letter in the air.
- ◆ Take turns, encouraging each child to trace the first letter of their name in front of them.
- ◆ Notice together who has names that begin with the same first letter.
- ◆ Notice together who has letters in their names in common.

Retelling

Using a book that the children know very well, tell them you are all going to have them read the book to you.

Begin on the title page and ask the children (either one by one or as a group) to tell you the name of the book (and perhaps who wrote it!) Going page by page, encourage the children to tell you the story of the book, cover to cover. Afterward, ask them questions about the story. What happened in the beginning, the middle, the end, what did they like/dislike about it, etc. The purpose is to generate an active conversation about the book.

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.