

September 2012

Early Learning Newsletter

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

The Eensy-Weensy Spider by Mary Ann Hoberman – A fun adaptation of the classic nursery rhyme. The additional verses are clever, easy to remember, and add a lot of humor.

Ages 2-5.

The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle – Persistence is the theme in this beautifully illustrated story about a spider who keeps on building her web despite the many distractions.

Ages 3-7.



Other Books featuring SPIDERS.....

Are you a Spider? by Judy Allen – This book gives a factual glimpse into the life cycle of a spider with many interesting facts about spiders. Children will definitely learn something new! Ages 4-8.

Diary of a Spider by Doreen Cronin – Gives us a story glimpse into life from a young spider's point of view. Ages 5-8.

Be Nice to Spiders by Margaret Bloy Graham – The zoo animals in this tale will certainly agree that there are many reasons why we need spiders. Ages 4-8.

Anansi and the Talking Melon by Eric A. Kimmel – Another Anansi the Spider trickster tale where Anansi is able to fool many animals into thinking that the melon in which he is hiding actually talks. Ages 5-8.

Miss Spider's Tea Party by David Kirk – Completely innocent of the fact that other insects see her as a predator, the sweet Miss Spider can't understand why no one will come to her tea party. Ages 5-8.

Aaaarrgghh! Spider! By Lydia Monks – This spider desperately wants to be accepted as a pet. After all, he's small, doesn't smell, and makes artistic webs. Will the family want him in the house? Ages 3-6.

Itsy Bitsy Spider by Iza Trapani – Yet another enjoyable variation of this great rhyme! Ages 3-6.

RHYMES OF THE MONTH

Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet
Sat on a tuffet
Eating her curds and whey
Along came a spider
Who sat down beside her
And frightened Miss Muffet away!

(Check out the CD Hap Palmer Sings Classic Nursery Rhymes from the library.)

It has a great tune for this nursery rhyme and many others!



Itsy Bitsy Spider Variations

The itsy bitsy spider
Went up the water spout
Down came the rain
And washed the spider out!
Out came the sun
And dried up all the rain
And the itsy bitsy spider
Went up the spout again!
(Try this song using variations like "the Great Big Spider" or "the teeny tiny spider," changing your voice and hand motions to match the words.)

LITERACY CONNECTIONS

SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE

Arachnids versus Insects

Talk with children about the differences between spiders (arachnids) and ants, ladybugs, flies (insects).

Here are some possible discussion questions:

How many legs do arachnids have versus insects?

How many segments to their body do arachnids have versus insects?

What other animals are spiders related to?

Make a chart listing the ways (or just talk about the ways) that spiders are useful in our world. Why do we need spiders?

What would the world be like without them? This would be an especially good discussion to have after reading the book

Be Nice to Spiders by Margaret Bloy Graham.

For more insect and arachnid information, check out the web site www.buginfo.com



Music and Circle Time Fun

Raffi has a great song about spiders on his CD *Singable Songs for the Very Young* called "Spider on the Floor." Try this song with paper die-cut spiders in circle time. Each child gets a spider (either cut out of paper or felt, a spider picture, or a plastic spider). Children have to listen to the words of the song and then place the spider where the song tells them. Great activity for learning about the body and also practicing those important skills of following directions and listening. This song is also available as a book - *The Spider on the Floor* by Raffi to read or sing together!

*BATES TECHNICAL COLLEGE South Campus has a great resource room with over 500 die-cuts. Check their web site at <http://www.bates.ctc.edu/ResourceCenter> for more information.

LITERACY AND LANGUAGE LEARNING

As a class, sing or say the nursery rhymes "Little Miss Muffet" and "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" together. After the children are familiar with these rhymes, write or type them on large pieces of paper and encourage children to illustrate them. Post the rhyme in the center and post children's illustrations all around the rhyme. Not only is this great language learning, but it also makes for great classroom art that the children can later take home.

*For added learning and fun, act out these rhymes as you're singing/saying them.



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