February 2014

Books of the Month

In My Heart by Molly Bang
A mother joyfully tells her child that no matter how long they are apart and no matter what they are both doing, he is always right there in her heart. The vibrant illustrations and familiar story will captivate preschool aged children.

Free STARS trainings are listed at www.piercecountylibrary.org

Due to the new smaller class size requirement and ineffective pre-registration procedures of the past, the Pierce County Library STARS classes will open their doors a half hour early and will accept the first 50 people for each class. We appreciate your patience and understanding!

Other fun books featuring Hearts and Love

What a Treasure by Jane and Will Hillenbrand—A little mole digs for treasure finding many valuable things for other animals. But the best treasure is his when he finds a friend. Preschool.

Amy Loves the Snow by Lillian Hoban — A small and simple book for toddlers about a little girl and her parents out enjoying the winter weather.

My Heart is Like a Zoo by Michael Hall—This wonderful book features many animals all made from heart shapes. Preschool.

Hugless Douglas by David Melling—When Douglas the bear wakes from hibernation, he goes searching for a hug—to mixed reviews. Preschoolers will enjoy this funny story and the many hug samples at the end.

Thump-Thump: Learning about Your Heart by Pamela Hill Nettleton—A simple informational book all about the heart. Preschool and young schoolage.

Bear of My Heart by Joanne Ryder — adorable board book about a mommy and baby bear. Infants and Toddlers.

Poem of the Month

I loved my friend.
He went away from me.
There's nothing more to say.
The poem ends, soft as it began—
I loved my friend.

Langston Hughes

Rhyme of the Month

My Heart
I have a little heart
And it goes bump, bump, bump.
(Cross hands over your heart and show a heart beat)
It keeps on beating when I jump, jump, jump.
(Jump three times)
I get a good feeling when I look at you.
(Wrap your arms around yourself like a hug)
It makes me want to give you
A kiss or two!
(Blow a kiss)
Who Will Be My Valentine?
(singing game)
Ages 3-6

Who will be my valentine, valentine, valentine
Who will be my valentine, I wonder who will be?

Props:
Cut out same number of paper hearts as you have children (if you have an odd number, include yourself to make it even). Divide into pairs, and put the same pictures on each set of pairs. For younger children, choose a simple shape (like an animal). With older children, you can make the pictures more similar so they are harder to match. You might also decorate with words or letters, valentine stickers, or clipart. Laminate the hearts if you plan to use them a lot.

To play the game:
First teach the song to the children by singing it with them a couple of times.
Then, with children sitting in a circle, mix up the hearts, and pass them out to the children, picture side down as you sing the song together. Then tell the children to try to find their valentine, but finding the child who has a matching heart. Tell children to sit back down with their valentine-partners when they find them. Note: the first couple of times you do this, the children may need your help, but they will quickly learn how to "match" the pairs. Play the game as many times as the children want! (Don't forget to mix up the hearts before playing the game each time).

Other ideas: Let one child collect the hearts in a basket after you finish playing each time. You can also have one child pass out the hearts, either in front of the children, on the floor behind them.

(This activity is from Nancy Stewart’s website: www.nancymusic.com
She has many, many more songs of the month to share and enjoy!)

Learning Ideas for February

Contact Paper Hearts

Supplies:
Red, pink, and white tissue paper.
Contact paper
Scissors

Cut the tissue paper into small pieces of differing sizes. Spread a piece of contact paper in front of each child and let them push the tissue pieces onto the contact paper. When they have finished, cut the contact paper into heart shapes of varying sizes and hand them in the classroom or in a window.

Count and Move
When the weather is cold, it is often tempting to stay indoors more. DON’T! Fresh winter air and lots of movement are important for good health.

As a fun learning activity—Play a Follow the Leader sort of game outside. The leader chooses the ‘walk’ and as everyone begins walking in that fashion, they count their steps. Perhaps change leaders after every 20 steps.

Sample ways of walking:
March, Hop, Straight leg, Skip, on tip-toe, on heels, with wobbly legs, like a chicken etc. (You might want to engage in all these movements together before you play so everyone knows what to do).

Keep Moving!

You can find a myriad of early learning information at our website:
http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/
(in the parents/caregivers section of the Kids/Teens menu)