Books of the Month

Go Shapes, Go! By Denise Fleming
Clever Denise Fleming (with the help of a wee mouse) takes a lot of different shapes and brings them together page by page creating a fun story! The text is very simple but includes some wonderful vocabulary words. The shapes are accurately illustrated and labeled. This is a very fun book, but has excellent shape information in it! Toddlers and preschoolers will enjoy the simple conflict and it just might inspire some wonderful art projects.

Other fun books about Shapes:
It’s Circle Time! Shapes by Emily Bolam—A preschool classroom is the setting for this simple introduction to basic shapes. Cute illustrations accompany clear information. Older toddlers and Preschool.
Circles, Stars, and Squares: Looking for Shapes by Jane Brocket—part of the “Jane Brocket’s Clever Concepts” series. Large, vibrant photographs accompany simple information about shapes we can see all around us! Preschool.
I Spy Shapes in Art by Lucy Micklethwait—Each page of this book uses simple text to encourage children to find different shapes in important pieces of art. Wonderful for preschoolers.
Friendshape: An Uplifting Celebration of Friendship by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld. Four different shapes demonstrate the many aspects of friendship in this simple yet adorable book. Wonderful for preschool.
Find the Circle by Britta Teckentrup. A creative and interactive board book examining circles. Toddlers.

Rhyme of the Month

How Can You Tell?
This is a circle. (point to a circle)
How can you tell?
It goes round and round.
No end can be found.

This is a square. (point to a square)
How can you tell?
It has four sides,
All the same size.

Poem of the Month

A Triangle Has Three Sides
A triangle has three sides
A triangle has three sides
A triangle has three sides
Up the mountain, down and back
A triangle has three sides.

Free STARS trainings are listed at www.piercecountylibrary.org
You may register for STARS classes by clicking on the date of the class on the Calendar of the Pierce County Library website: www.piercecountylibrary.org
Learning Ideas for January:

**Shapes**

Children do not develop their ideas about shapes from just looking at them. We really want to try and provide a myriad of opportunities for children to touch, explore, experiment, and play with all sorts of shapes. Blocks and balls are a perfect medium for young children to support shape learning.

Whenever possible, provide both two dimensional (paper or flat shapes) and three dimensional (blocks, balls etc.) And always try and move beyond the basic shapes: Square, Circle, Triangle, Rectangle. Make an effort to explore, describe, and talk about rhombuses, trapezoids, arches, etc. And describe three-dimensional shapes—

- Cube—’Like a Box”
- Rectangular Prism—”Like a long box”
- Cylinder—”Like a Can”
- Sphere—”Like a Ball”

Perhaps compare a block with the object named—show the children the similarities between a cylinder and a can.

**Shape Art**

Cut shapes and eyes and mouths out of paper and provide glue so children can make shape characters. Hang them up around the classroom for more shape learning.

Cut sponges into shapes. Place paper and paint on a table and encourage the children to make shape paintings. Talk about the shapes while the children are creating. Their size, their qualities, their colors, etc.

Hang them up around the classroom to help create a ‘shape’ classroom.

**Classroom Shape Hunt**

Choose a shape, show the children the shape in both two and three dimensional forms and talk together about that shape’s qualities. Encourage the children to hunt for that shape in the classroom and outside. How many of that shape can they find?

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)