

January 2013

Books of the Month

Changes, Changes

By PAT HUTCHINS



Changes, Changes

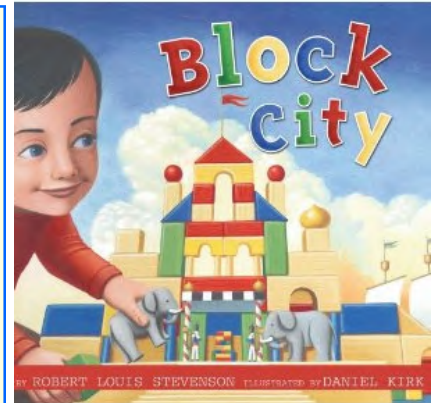
by Pat Hutchins

In this incredible wordless book, a couple of little folks use blocks in very creative ways to build, save, move and rebuild a house. A must-share classic for all ages!

Block City by Robert

Lewis Stevenson

Daniel Kirk has beautifully illustrated this children's poem by Robert Lewis Stevenson about a young boy and the city he creates with his blocks. This is a celebration of imagination for children of all ages.



Other fun books featuring *Blocks and Building*

Homes in Many Cultures by Heather Adamson—Large, colorful photographs show many different homes around the world. Preschool.

A Day at the Market by Sara Anderson – This large board book shows a day at the Pike Place Market in Seattle. Fun for all ages.

Building a House by Byron Barton—A very simple look at what it takes to build a house. Bartons' illustrations are a perfect accompaniment for the block area.

Say Hello by Rachel Isadora—A young girl travels around her neighborhood saying hello to all her neighbors. This is a nice addition to the block area for children creating towns or neighborhoods. Preschool.

Circus Shapes by Stuart J. Murphy—This tour though all the many colorful shapes found at the circus could provide inspiration for the block area. Preschool.

Backseat A B See by Maria van Lieshout— a tour through the many road signs we see around town. All ages.

Raise the Roof by Anastasia Suen—bright comic-book style illustrations accompany simple, rhyming text about a man, woman, and dog building a house from the ground up. Adorable for all ages.

Rhyme of the Month

Building

Let's build a town

With all of our blocks

(form squares with your hands)

We'll add some signs, some plants,
some rocks

(hold square above your head, grow a plant, make two fists for rocks)

The cars will drive all through our town

(steer the wheel)

We'll play and play

And then knock it all down!

(sweep hands out and across in front of you)

Susan Anderson-Newham

Poem of the Month

Hug o' War

I will not play at Tug O War

I'd rather play at Hug O War

Where everyone hugs, instead of tugs,
Where everyone giggles and rolls on the rugs,
Where everyone kisses and everyone grins,
And everyone cuddles and everyone wins.

Shel Silverstein

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!



Learning Ideas for January:

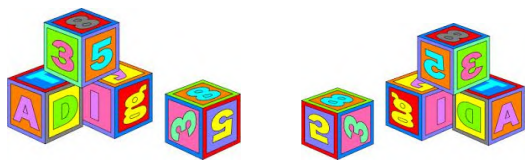
Create a Book Club in your Class

For those who work with older preschoolers or young school-aged children, think about creating a “Book Club” to encourage reading and talking about books.

For preschoolers—display books that you have shared in the past at Circle Time and talk about which ones the children like the best. Encourage each child to pick their favorite and what they liked about it. Was it the characters? The story? The pictures?

For school-aged children encourage them to share their favorite books that they are reading. Encourage them to tell the others what it was they liked about the book and why others should read it.

Share your favorites too!



Blocks

The Pierce County Library has placed large cabinets filled with hardwood unit blocks in 7 of our branches throughout the system:

Key Center, Gig Harbor, Lakewood, Parkand/Spanaway, Fife, South Hill, and Sumner.

All these branches will be holding “Block Parties” once a month for families, home child cares, and preschools. Contact the nearest of these branches and join in the fun! Help develop Pierce County’s future math and science leaders!

Toys

This can be the season of toy overflow. The children may be talking about the new toys they have at home. You may have received some toys as donations. Toys and games can be wonderful learning tools, but ponder this as you look at the toys around your classroom:

- * The best toys are the really simple, plain ones—the ones that require the child to use a lot of action, cooperation, and/or imagination—balls, blocks, dolls, vehicles, puzzles, board games, costumes, puppets, movement games etc.

When children engage in imaginative play with one another, they learn many different things—how the world works, how objects work and how we can use them. They also learn how to plan, experiment and think. They learn social skills—that we are alike and we are different and sometimes it takes practice to all get along.

This is some of the richest and most valuable learning. And this is what we want our classroom toys to encourage.

Keep Playing!



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)