**Books of the Month**

**Summer Days and Nights** by Wong Herbert Yee
This lovely little book follows a young girl as she explores the outdoors over a Summer day and night. The rhyming text and sweet illustrations suit each other perfectly. This would be a nice book to open a conversation about things that your children enjoy doing during the summer. Preschool and young school-age.

**Other fun books about Summer:**

- **Are You Ready for Summer?** by Sheila Anderson—Large, bright photographs bring the summer season to life in this non-fiction title. Preschool and young school-age.
- **Jabari Jumps** by gaia Cornwall — A young boy faces his fear on the high-diving board (with his gentle father’s help). Young school-age.
- **Playas and bicicletas, Beaches and Bicycles: A Summer Counting Book** by Rebecca Fjelland Davis— Summer is vibrantly displayed in this simple counting book in both English and Spanish. All ages.
- **Summer is Summer** by Phillis Gershator—Four friends show the many wonders of Summer. Preschool.
- **Baby Loves Summer** by Karen Katz—This very simple board book is a wonderful first look at summer for our very youngest children. Infants and Toddlers.
- **Blackout** by John Rocco—An electrical blackout in the city sets the backdrop for this charming picture book about a neighborhood finding cool spaces to gather. Preschool and young school-age.
- **Now It Is Summer** by Eileen Spinelli—A little mouse repeatedly asks his mother if it’s Autumn yet. This is a lovely book that describes both Autumn and Summer. Older preschool and young school-age.

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**Rhyme of the Month**

**You Be the Ice Cream**

You be the ice cream
(kiss baby's cheek, smile, say,"mmmmmmm")
And I'll be the freezer. (give baby a shivery hug)
You be the lemon (kiss baby's cheek and make a sour face)
And I'll be the squeezer. (give baby a little squeeze)
You be the hot dog (squirt some mustard on)
And I'll be the bun. (enfold baby in a cozy hug)
You be the baby (give a little bounce)
And we'll have some fun! (give a hug and a tickle)

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**Poem of the Month**

**Summer Heat**

In Summer, when the days are hot,
I like to find a shady spot
And hardly move a single bit –
And sit, and sit, and sit and sit!

~Anonymous

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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 July:

Exploring Our Senses Outside
1. Before going outside, discuss the five senses with the children.
2. In small groups stand outside
3. Ask the children to stand very still and look carefully at the yard. After about a minute, encourage them to describe what they SEE using color words and descriptive vocabulary.
4. Ask the children to be very quiet and listen. After about a minute, ask them what they HEAR.
5. Invite the children to touch the leaves, flowers, and fruit and describe what they TOUCH: the various textures, such as smooth, rough, prickly, fuzzy, or sticky.
6. Encourage the children to SMELL the flowers and plants and describe which ones are sweet, sour, or funny smelling.
7. If you have a garden, now is a nice chance to supervise the children in picking a fruit or vegetable. Take them inside and wash the food and TASTE it together. Talk about what you taste.

Once you go back inside engage the children in a discussion about what they saw, heard, smelled, tasted, and touched.

~From The Giant Encyclopedia of Preschool Activities for 4-Year-Olds.

Colorful Ice
In the summer heat, you can support art and science learning by creating colorful ice!

You will need:
- Paper cups
- Food colors in primary colors
- Droppers
- Ice trays
- Freezer

Directions:
Fill the paper cups halfway with water. Mix a different food color in each cup. Allow kids to take different colors with the droppers, from the cups, and drop them on the pockets in the ice tray. Encourage them to mix the colors. They'll be delighted to see primary colors in the preschool color activity mixing with each other to form secondary colors!

~From the Jumpstart website ~

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)