Books of the Month

What this Story Needs is a Munch and a Crunch by Emma Virjan – Chock full of rhymes, the main character (a pig in a red wig) sets off with her friends to enjoy a picnic but, unfortunately, their plans are cut short by a thunderstorm...Ages 4-8.

Good News Bad News by Jeff Mock – Another story about a picnic that gets interrupted but not just by a storm. Luckily, it ends on a high note! This is a nearly wordless book. Ages 3-6.

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT PICNICS:

Having a Picnic by Sarah Garland – This family – a mom, her daughter, baby, and the family dog – are preparing for a winter picnic at their nearby park. This story about an everyday yet special event is told with simple text and beautiful illustrations. Ages 2-5.

Mouse’s First Summer by Lauren Thompson – Mouse and his friend Minka decide to go on a picnic one summer day. This book is a fantastic introduction to summer traditions for little ones, including picnics. Ages 1-4.

Oh No, Gotta Go #2 by Susan Middleton Elya – A little girl who has recently become potty-trained believes she can last the entire time outdoors at her family’s picnic but ends up needing to go home for a bathroom break. This story has some Spanish words and phrases added in making it extra fun to read aloud! Ages 2-5.

On the Way to the Pond by Angela Medearis – This easy reader (perfect style of book for children just beginning to read) not only contains a story about friends going on a picnic but also activities related to picnics that children can try after reading the book. Fun! Ages 4-7.

Picnic by John Burningham – Another classic tale – a boy and a girl go out one day for a picnic and, along the way, they meet all kinds of animals which they invite on their picnic adventure. Ages 3-5.

Ready for Anything by Keiko Kasza – This is a funny story about an extremely nervous raccoon who worries about anything and everything that could go wrong. His friend duck will have quite a time helping him overcome all his fears if they are to go on their picnic. This is a great books to read aloud to any child who might be nervous or afraid of new or unexpected events...Ages 3-7.

The Teddy Bears’ Picnic by Jimmy Kennedy – A classic song! This lovely book has been around for a while but it is timeless in its themes of friendship, gathering, going back home after a busy day, and picnics...enjoy. Ages 2-6.
Going on a Picnic
Going on a picnic,
Gotta pack a lunch.
What should we bring to munch, munch, munch?
*Chant this rhyme together and then ask children what they think we should bring on a picnic lunch?*

Last verse –
Ready for a picnic,
Ready with a lunch,
Now we’re ready to munch, munch, munch!

Credit: Harris County Public Library

5 Hungry Ants
5 hungry ants, marching in a line,
Came upon a picnic, where they could dine.
They marched into the salad;
They marched into the cake;
They marched into the pepper –
But that was a MISTAKE!
Aaaaachoooooo!

*March around as you say this silly rhyme and then act out an extra large sneeze!*

Make WATERMELON SOFT SERVE FROZEN YOGURT
Watermelon is a picnic favorite and also very good for you! This is a two ingredient recipe for yummy watermelon frozen yogurt.

Children can help with preparing the watermelon. Give each child a large slice of watermelon, a plastic knife, and a bowl to put their cut watermelon into.

Once you’ve gathered the sliced watermelon from each child, place 3 cups of the watermelon slices into a blender along with ½ cup of vanilla Greek yogurt. Blend melon and yogurt together in the blender (TEACHER JOB!) until everything is smooth and blended.

Pour your mixture into a container with a lid and put into the freezer. Cover and freeze for an hour and your yogurt is ready to eat. In the meantime, the children can snack on any leftover watermelon!

**RECIPE**
3 cups watermelon, cut into cubes
½ cup vanilla Greek yogurt
Double or even triple your recipe if you are making it for a large group.

Learning Activities for June

**Picnic Basket Sorting**
What you need:
- A fun basket that looks like something you would take on a picnic
- A plastic tub or bin
- Plastic or paper shopping bag full of food items (can be real food or play food from your kitchen play area)

Children can reach into the shopping bag and pull out a food item. They must decide if this is the type of food you would take on a picnic or not. Then they can sort the food accordingly – either adding it to the picnic basket or putting it in the other bin/container.

This can be played as a large group circle time activity where children take turns sorting food. You can then put the game out in your room for children to sort on their own. Sorting is a fantastic early math skill for children to practice!

Song and Rhyme of the Month

**Going on a Picnic**

**5 Hungry Ants**

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
The next STARS Class will be in October. Have a wonderful SUMMER!!