**Book of the Month**

*Mama Built a Little Nest* by Jennifer Ward – Many kinds of birds and the variety of nests each species builds is the focus of this book told in a lyrical rhyming format. This is an easy book to both read aloud to a large group and introduce new concepts about birds! A good bedtime story as well. Ages 3–7.

**New books featuring SCIENCE TOPICS…**

**Lightning Bolt Books** - This is a fabulous new science series whose books discuss a wide range of topics from life science to physics and present clear explanations for children. Here are a few titles:

- *Can You Tell a Bee from a Wasp?* by Buffy Silverman
- *Do you Know About Reptiles?* by Buffy Silverman
- *Give it a Push! Give it a Pull! A Look at Forces* by Jennifer Boothroyd
- *Are You Ready for Summer?* by Sheila Anderson

**Things that Float and Things that Don’t** by David A. Adler – Discusses in a clear and concise way why some things float and others sink. Ages 5–8.

**Best Foot Forward** by Ingo Arndt – Everything you ever wanted to know about animal feet – paired with up close pictures and told in a guess-the-animal format. Super entertaining! Ages 4–9.

**Plant Secrets** by Emily Goodman – Introduces readers to a variety of plants and walks them through a plant's life cycle. Ages 4–8.

**Eat Like a Bear** by April Pulley Sayre – This story takes readers through the eating year of a bear and chronicles what she eats month by month. Ages 4–8.

SUN TEA

Here’s a fun summer activity that children can make themselves. Children learn so much from cooking including numerous science concepts. In this case, they observe how the water changes color as the tea is absorbed into it and the effect that temperature has on this process.

What You Need -
- 1 gallon glass container or jar
- 12 decaffeinated or herbal tea bags
- 3 quarts cold water

Pour cold water into jar and add the tea bags. Cover tightly. Place the jar in the sunlight for several hours at least but you can leave it out for a day for stronger tea. Pour the tea through a strainer into a pitcher and serve with ice!

For added color and fun, you can add different fruits or herbs to the tea. Some ideas are –
- Mint leaves
- Lemons, limes, or oranges sliced
- Raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, or blackberries
- Basil leaves

Experiment with different flavor combinations throughout the summer. Make a graph and together chart which flavors each child prefers. Look at the graph together as a recap of your tea taste tests!