My Teacher is a Monster! (no, I am not) by Peter Brown – Bobby thinks he has the most horrible teacher in the world – until one day when he bumps into her at his favorite spot in the park and she gradually become less like a monster and more like…a friend. Great book to introduce many social/emotional concepts, including making friends and understanding others. Ages 5-8.

How Rocket Learned to Read by Tad Hills – Not all teachers are human! Join rocket the dog and his teacher, a little yellow bird, on their step by step reading journey. Ages 4-7.

OTHER FUN EXAMPLES OF BOOKS ABOUT TEACHERS:

A Poem in Your Pocket by Margaret McNamara – Mr. Tifton has been the subject of several stories but this one focuses on poetry. Ages 6-8.

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes – Chrysanthemum has always loved her name, until the day she begins school. Her name becomes the source of bullying by many of her classmates. It isn’t until one very helpful teacher steps in that Chrysanthemum and all the students begin to appreciate the beauty of the name and the person. Ages 5-8.

First Day Jitters by Julie Dannenberg – Sarah Jane Hartwell is nervous about her first day in a new school. The ending to this story, though, is not what is expected! Ages 5-8. If you like this book, try Last Day Blues by Julie Dannenberg.

Lily’s Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes – Lily loves school and thinks her teacher, Mr. Slinger, is the coolest teacher ever – that is until he confiscates her prized purple plastic purse when she disrupts a lesson. This is a darling story about making mistakes and figuring out how to fix those mistakes. Ages 4-8.

Miss Brooks Loves Books (and I don’t) by Barbara Bottner – Miss Brooks is the librarian at Missy’s school. Although most children love books, Missy is a very picky reader. What book will finally win over the stubborn Missy? Ages 4-7.

Miss Nelson is Missing! by Harry Allard – This book is a classic now but still relevant today. Miss Nelson’s class is the worst behaved class in the whole school but they begin to change their tune when one day their easygoing teacher is replaced by the “witchy” Miss Viola Swamp. Ages 4-7.

Mrs. McCaw Learns to Draw by Kaethe Zemach – Mrs. McCaw, usually so knowledgeable, becomes the student and asks Dudley Ellington (a student struggling to learn) to help explain how to draw and build up his confidence. Ages 4-8.

Totally Wonderful Miss Plumberry by Michael Rosen – This lovely story captures the important role so many teachers play in being attuned to the needs – great and small – of all their students. Ages 3-6.
Poem and Song of the Month

Rainbow Teacher by Joanna Fuchs
A good teacher
is a brilliant light,
illuminating the prism of life,
revealing to students
a rainbow of possibilities.

What is My Job? — a guessing game song
Sung to the tune of “Are You Sleeping?”
What is my job? What is my job?
Can you guess? Can you guess?
I help people get well! I help people get well!
Who am I? Who am I? (a DOCTOR)
Repeat using other verses like...
I deliver letters (MAILADY/MAN)
I can teach you new things (TEACHER)
I make tasty meals for you (CHEF)
I help if you get lost (POLICE OFFICER)
Show a picture of each community worker/helper after the children guess OR just sing the song and say the answer!

Learning Ideas for March

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER – CLASSROOM
Set up your dramatic play center to be a classroom!

Possible materials to include:
Paper, pencils, pens
Small dry erase or magnetic board with pens OR
Chalk board with chalk
Rulers
Pencil boxes or pouches (check the Dollar store for these)
Crayons
Stamps or stickers that say things like “great job!” and “super!”

Children love to act out professions and playing classroom is definitely a longtime favorite of many! A teacher is such an important community helper for children because all or most young children have a teacher that they see most days and look up to. Play is important for children in making sense of their world so this is another great chance for children to learn and experience teaching. Play is children’s work!

Community Helper Matching Game
Gather objects that correspond with different community helpers. Some examples might be: a mailbox or letters for postal workers, a toothbrush for the dentist, a fire engine or fire hat for firefighters, any number of school supplies for teachers, a stethoscope for the doctor, etc.

You could check the dollar store, grocery stores, and of course www.amazon.com or other online stores often have many inexpensive items for this game.

Find pictures of community helpers. I have found great pictures just from searching on www.google.com, typing in “doctor clip art” or “teacher clip art,” and clicking the IMAGE button to search only for a picture. It’s usually pretty easy to copy and paste these images into a Word document and print them out. Laminating them helps them to last much longer too.

Let your children match which object goes with what helper. You could play this game as a large group at circle time or set the game up as a table activity. Have fun!!

You may register for FREE STARS classes by clicking on the date of the class on the CALENDAR of the Pierce County Library web site: www.piercecountylibrary.org.

Our next STARS class is on Saturday, April 22nd and the topic is MATH AND LITERACY.