The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba

A beautiful picture book biography about William Kamkwamba, a boy from Malawi who learned from reading books how to build a windmill, create electricity and eventually pull water from underground. William was featured in a TED talk! He has now finished his College degree and is still working on renewable energy and its uses in helping the people of Malawi. This is a wonderful true story for young school-aged children.

Other fun books about Wind:
- **The Wind Blew** by Pat Hutchins—An entire town gets swept up with the wind in this fun picture book for preschoolers.
- **Wind Flyers** by Angela Johnson—This lovely picture book tells the story of a boy who dreamed of flying and grew up to become a Tuskegee Airman in WWII. Preschool and young school age.
- **It's Windy Today** by Kristin Sterling—A non-fiction book filled with interesting facts about the wind. Adorned with large, color photographs. Older preschool and young school age.
- **Wind** by Carol Thompson—This adorable board book is a lovely first book about the wind. Infants and Toddlers.
- **It is the Wind** by Ferida Wolff—A young man ponders all the sounds he hears outside his bedroom window as he readies for bed in this gentle poetic book. Preschool.
- **Noah Chases the Wind** by Michelle Worthington—Noah explores and follows the wind in this sweet picture book that reminds us that individuals see and experience the world in different ways.

**Rhyme of the Month**

**The Wind Blows**

The wind blows through the chimney
Ooooooohhhhh!
The wind blows through the town
Swoooooosh!
He howls in all the treetops
Ooooooohhhhh!
And makes the leaves fall down
Whoosh!

**Poem of the Month**

**Brooms**

On stormy days
When the wind is high,
Tall trees are brooms
Sweeping the sky.
They swing their branches
In sudden of rain,
And spray and sweep it
Blue again.

~Dorothy Aldis

**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 March

Hopping Numbers

What You Need:
20 sheets of green construction paper
1 black marker or cut-out numbers

What You Do:
Cut the paper into rounds
Set the rounds out on a table with markers and/or numbers. Encourage the children to write numbers or glue cut-out numbers onto them. And then to decorate them creating “lily pads”
Next, help them place the rounds on the ground as though they are lilypads in a ‘pond’. You could do variations such as placing the cards counting up, counting down, even numbers near each other, or odd numbers, or just randomly scattered.

To play the game, two children begin at opposite sides of the pond.
Call out, or have one chosen child call out, “HOP.”
Each child hops onto a lily pad nearby and calls out the number on which they are standing.
Repeat until the children have successfully called out all of the numbers. Play again with two new children.

Hopping Numbers is a great way to build a strong math foundation for future learning. Not to mention it being silly and fun.

Name That Shape Game

Materials
Cardboard (or other stiff material)
Scissors
Blindfold (a strip of fleece material works well)

What to do:
1. Cut out shapes from cardboard—begin with simple shapes: circles, squares, triangles of many varieties, and rectangles.
2. At Circle Time, present the shapes one at a time, to the children. Talk with the children about the characteristics of each shape.
3. Choose one child to be “It” and tie on the blindfold.
4. Once the blindfold is on, hand the child a shape to hold and identify. Ask them how they were able to identify the shape. What criteria did they use.
5. Repeat this activity for each child, varying the shapes so they aren’t able to guess which one will come next.

Once the children are adept at identifying easy shapes—expand the shape repertoire—ovals, parallelograms, pentagons, rhombus, etc.

From: the Giant Encyclopedia of Preschool Activities for Four-Year-Olds

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)