Pierce County Library System

Early Learning
Books, Rhymes & Fun

It Starts with a Seed by Laura Knowles*
This lovely, gentle story takes readers through a tree’s different stages of growth – from seed to big tree. Animals who make their homes in trees are also shown. Ages 4-8.

Redwoods by Jason Chin*
A subway trip that magically turns into a journey into the ancient Redwood Forest for one boy! Along the way, he and readers learn about the wonders of these beautiful trees. Ages 5-8.

* All books that have an asterisk are available to read electronically through OverDrive.

Other Fun Books About TREES

A Leaf Can Be by Laura Purdie Salas*
What can a leaf be or do? Hold water? Cradle a little animal? This book explores the many ways leaves help and add beauty to our world! Ages 4-8.

A Tree is Nice by Janice May Udry*
A timeless classic with beautiful illustrations. This book draws on childhood and what a big role trees play in children’s outdoor exploration and adventures! Ages 4-8.

Big Tree Down by Laurie Lawlor
When a beloved (and massive) neighborhood tree is struck by lightning, neighbors and community members come together to remember their tree and plant a new little tree in its place. A wonderful message of building community and working together. Ages 4-8.

Tap the Magic Tree by Christie Matheson
This is a fun and interactive story that would be perfect to share with a small group of children or one on one! Ages 2-6.

The Night Gardener by Terry Fan
One morning, William wakes to discover that the tree outside his window has been sculpted into an owl! More and more beautiful shapes appear mysteriously in other neighborhood trees too. Although we don’t discover the identity of the night gardener, William’s town is changed for the better. Ages 5-9.

Wangari’s Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa by Jeanette Winter
This is the story of Wangari Maathai, an environmentalist from Kenya who also won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work planting trees and encouraging the women in local villages to plant trees to help prevent deforestation. Ages 5-9.

We Planted a Tree by Diane Muldrow*
Two families in different parts of the world each plant a new tree, care for it and watch it grow. Love the message of hope in this story! Ages 3-7.

Who is Sleeping? By Petr Horacek
A fun lift-the-flap book where children can guess where different animals sleep. Ages 1-3.
Way Up High in the Lemon Tree
A fun variation of the rhyme "Way Up High in the Apple Tree"

Way up high in the lemon tree
Five little lemons smiled at me!
So I shook that tree with all my power.
Down came a lemon, ooohhh it was sour!
Way up high in the lemon tree
Four little lemons smiled at me!
So I shook that tree with all my power.
Down came a lemon, ooohhh it was sour!

Keep counting down until no lemons are left on the lemon tree. Have fun making a sour face and encouraging children to make sour faces too!

A Tree is a Home
A tree may be a home for a bird
(flap arms like a bird)
A tree may be a home for a bee
(buzz hand around)
A tree may be a home for a snake
(slither hand around like a snake)
A tree may be a home for a monkey
(swing arms like a monkey)
Hmmmm…would a tree make a good home for me?
(point to self)

This would be a fun rhyme to say and then show photos of animals living in their tree homes.

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom SNACK!
I love the book “Chicka Chicka Boom Boom” by Bill Martin Jr. Such a fun story to learn about big and small (uppercase and lowercase) letters in our alphabet. This book is available electronically to read on OverDrive too! You just need your library card and password to check it out:
piercecounty.overdrive.com/search?query=chicka+chicka+boom+boom

After you read the book together, you can make a book themed snack!

Here’s what you need:
• Graham crackers for the tree trunk
• Apple slices for the palms
• Chocolate cereal (malt balls or chocolate covered raisins would work too) for the coconuts
• Alphabet cereal or cookies/crackers for letters!

Children can build their own COCONUT TREE from the story however they like and then eat it for snack. Yum!

Observe a Local Tree
1. Choose a tree to observe together (a tree at your local park, a tree you walk past on a neighborhood walk, a tree you can see from your window…)
2. Check the tree every day or every week!
3. What changes do you see in your tree?
4. Draw the changes you observe.
5. Talk or write about the changes you observe.
6. Notice animals on or near your tree and draw or write/talk about them.
7. Take a paper and crayon and do a bark rubbing of your tree. If there are leaves on the ground from your tree, do some leaf rubbings with crayons too! Have fun!

You can find much more Early Learning information on our website:
http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/
(In the Parents/Caregivers section of the Kids/Teens menu)