

These are the Literacy Book Bags currently available:

- 1) In **Growing Vegetable Soup** by Lois Ehlert, children learn about growing a vegetable garden that becomes the best soup ever! Along with the book, there are small plastic vegetables and a pot to recreate the cooking portion of the story, but some real gardening and cooking would provide a bunch more learning experiences across the curriculum areas.
- 2) **Frederick**, by Leo Lionni, is a story about the power of imagination. Frederick is a mouse who collects images in his mind such as the sun's rays and colors, instead of collecting nuts for winter storage like the rest of his family. One the food is gone, Frederick's special collection helps the mice get through the cold winter, as they remember the warmth of the sun and the bright colors of summer; his poetry helps the mice to survive in another kind of way and for this they come to appreciate Frederick's special gifts.

Activity ideas and a stuffed mouse are included with the book as well as an activity book highlighting several other books authored by Leo Lionni.

- 3) **"Fireflies"** is a Literacy theme bag all about the world of fireflies. Books include Eric Carle's The Very Lonely Firefly, Fireflies, Fireflies, Light My Way by Jonathan London and Fireflies for Nathan by Shulamith Levey Oppenheim. This bag contains ideas for firefly related activities and various stuffed critters.
- 4) **The Death of a Pet** is the theme of this literacy book bag. Several books including The Old Dog by Charlotte Zolotow, The 10<sup>th</sup> Good Thing About Barney by Judith Viorst and Goodbye, Mitch by Ruth Wallace-Brodeur. Story books focusing on the death of a family of classroom pet can help young children process their early experience with loss and the associated feelings.
- 5) **Same Sex Parents** Reading children's books that are inclusive of LGBT families is an important way to support the self-esteem of children from these families and for teaching all children about the diversity of families. This theme bag contains several beautiful written story books on the subject of same sex parents/families including And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson, The Family Book by Todd Parr, A Tale of Two Daddies by Vanita Oelschlager and Daddy, Papa and Me by Leslea Newman.
- 6) **Changing Families/Blended Families** Families change when parent separate and divorce- and when remarriage blends family members into a new family. The books in this theme bag provide resources for families experiencing the array of emotions and sometimes uncertainty that can accompany these changes in family structure. This collection includes Do you Sing Twinkle?- A Story About Remarriage and New Family by Sandra Levins, Two Homes by Claire Masurel and Jigsaw Puzzle Family-The Stepkids' Guide to Fitting it Together by Cynthia MacGregor.