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## Newsletter 5 - February 2018

We've selected the following books by Jan Brett for February's story time and creative movement.

**2/2 Gingerbread Baby** is a story about a gingerbread boy who wasn't fully baked and jumped out of the oven as a gingerbread baby! Join us in the sensory room to enjoy the story and practice the same movements as the gingerbread baby and the animals in the story.

**2/09 The Hat** is about a hedgehog who finds a sock and wears it as a hat during a cold and snowy day. Find out what his animal friends do and see what happens to the hat! We will move around the sensory room rolling like a hedgehog and make our own hats to keep our heads warm.

**2/16 The Mitten** is about a child's white mitten that was lost in the snow. Woodland animals discover the mitten and use it. Find out what they do with it and where it ends up! Explore paper mittens in the sensory room and see what you can fit inside of it.

If you'd like an activity to do with any of her books, or want to learn how to draw, check out activities and or videos @ <https://www.janbrett.com/index.html>

### Please join us!

You and your preschooler are invited to join **story time and creative movement** in the Claremont Early Childhood Program's Sensory Classroom. It's **free, fun**, and on the following Fridays in February:

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 2/02/2018 | 10:00am-10:30am |
| 2/09/2018 | 10:00am-10:30am |
| 2/16/2018 | 10:00am-10:30am |

### Celebrating the work of Jan Brett

In February we are celebrating the work of author and illustrator Jan Brett. Jan has many wonderful stories that feature winter, and include beautifully detailed illustrations of animals that children love. Jan is a New Englander and a traveler too. Her stories include traditions of the places she has visited, culturally accurate illustrations, and endearing animals such as Hedgie the hedgehog.

There are so many wonderful books for children, yet the illustrations in Jan's books are unique. The scenery, animals, and clothes of the people reflect the culture of the country in the story and are incredibly detailed.

Each page has a boarder that is decorated with pictures that give hints of what will happen next in the story. When sharing a Jan Brett book with children, ask them to tell you about the pictures in the boarders and to guess what will happen next.



## Buffy the Hedgehog

Buffy, a real hedgehog who is part of Jan's family, is the inspiration behind the hedgehogs that appear in her stories. Hedgehogs are small, interesting animals that children enjoy watching and imitating.

Do you know that hedgehogs make sounds? They whistle and purr when they are happy, snort when they aren't happy, click and hiss when they are scared and scream when they are in pain. Hedgehogs are physically active. A hedgehog can ball up in a way that hides its head, belly, feet and legs! Hedgehogs are also good at burrowing, and they can climb but not that well.

## Movement Game: I'm a Little Hedgehog

(Sing to the tune of I'm a Little Teapot while doing the movements)

I'm a Little Hedgehog small and light,  
make me happy and I will purrrrrrr

I'm a Little Hedgehog small and light,  
make me scared and I will hisssssss

I'm a Little Hedgehog small and light,  
make me nervous and I'll ball up tight

I'm a Little Hedgehog small and light,  
let me explore and I will burrow

Try this game or others using any of the many animals and characters that appear in Jan's books. For example, you could use the words from Gingerbread Baby to create a game of catch, "I am the Gingerbread Baby, Fresh from the pan. If you want me, Catch me if you can."



All of Jan Brett's books are available at  
**Fiske Free Library**



### [Hedgie's surprise](#)

Hedgie, the hedgehog, helps Henny, the speckled hen, trick the Tomten who has been eating all of Henny's eggs for breakfast.



### [Jan Brett's snowy treasury](#)

Collects four winter tales including the story of a runaway gingerbread baby, a child's lost mitten, and three polar bears visited by a young girl.



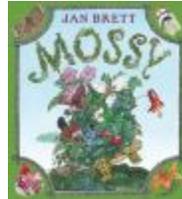
### [The three snow bears](#)

Retells the story of Goldilocks, set in an Inuit village and featuring a family of polar bears.



### [The mitten : a Ukrainian folktale](#)

Several animals sleep snugly in Nicki's lost mitten until the bear sneezes.



### [Mossy](#)

Mossy, a turtle with a garden growing on her shell, is taken from her home and new friend to become an exhibit in a museum, until the director's niece, Tory, notices how sad Mossy is and helps arrange for her to go home.

In addition to Jan Brett's books and so many more, **Fiske Free Library** also offers Legos, K'Nex, science kits, puzzles, and more. During **Winter break 2/26-3/2** they will have **special activities** including Straw Letters on Monday, Lego Car Building and Racing on Tuesday and String Art on Thursday. Call the library for more information @ 542-7017 and ask about the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Club. It's free and as the children read they are rewarded with a book bag, books, stickers and a sense of accomplishment.