Our Multicultural World

Young children see much more of the world through TV, movies and books than they ever have before. It brings the world closer to them, and opens them up to ask a lot of questions. They want to know about differences in skin color or language.

They wonder if they will see kangaroos hopping down the street of their neighborhood. They may try to imitate the sounds from different languages they hear.

As parents, it is important to help your child feel comfortable with differences between people, and to encourage questions. If you don’t know the answers, you can show them how to find the answer in a book or on a website. This is a research skill that will be important to have throughout school.

Reading books together can open up the door to new countries, new foods, new traditions and new languages.

Explore the world while sitting on your couch. Read as a family!

Ask an older family member for family stories that they know. Write them down and create a family book. This is a good place to start learning about other countries.

More Multicultural Books...

- Say Hello, by Rachel Isadora
- Whoever You Are, by Mem Fox
- We All Went on Safari: A Counting Journey Through Tanzania, by Laurie Krebs
- My Granny Went to Market: A Round-the-World Counting Rhyme, by Stella Blackstone
- Jambo Means Hello: Swahili Alphabet Book, by Muriel L. Feelings
- Book Fiesta, by Pat Mora
- Margaret and Margarita/Margarita y Margaret, by Lynn Reiser
- Round Is a Mooncake: A Book of Shapes, by Roseanne Thong
More fun with *Bringing Rain to the Kapiti Plain*…

Five ways to encourage reading…

1. Get your child a library card at your local public library. It’s free!

2. Encourage your child to read every day. Take advantage of “waiting” time to share books: on trips, at the doctor’s office, in line at the grocery store.

3. Check out audiobooks from your library. Listening to books helps children build fluency.

4. Choose a longer chapter book for a family “read aloud” and take turns reading chapters or pages.

5. Have books everywhere – in the car, in front of the TV, in the kitchen, on the porch…

New foods…Try a new food from a different country. You can look at your local grocery store, go to a specialty store, or make a recipe from a cookbook or Internet website.

Fingerplay

**Mi Familia**

Este chiquito es mi hermanito.
Esta es mi mama.
Este es mi papa.

Esta es mi hermana.
Y este(a) chiquito(a) y bonito(a) soy yo!
This tiny one is my little brother.
This one is my mother.
This tall one is my father.
This one is my sister.
And this little and pretty one is me!

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**Verse 1:**
Count with me in Spanish.
Count with me and see.
Counting in Spanish
Is as easy as can be!
One is uno (oo-no)
Two is dos (dose)
Three is tres (trace)
Four is quatro (kwa-tro)
Five is cinco (seen-ko)

**Verse 2:**
… in Swahili
One is moja (mo-jah)
Two is mbili (im-bee-lee)
Three is tatu (tah-too)
Four is nne (nah-ney)
Five is tano (tah-no)

**Verse 3:**
… in Japanese
One is ichi (ee-chee)
Two is ni (nee)
Three is san (sahn)
Four is shi (shee)
Five is go (goh)

*From Storytimes for 2 Year-Olds, by Judy Nichols*