El Día de Los Niños/El Día de Los Libros (Children’s Day/Book Day)

In Latin America, children are honored on a special day of the year. In most Latin American countries El Día de Los Niños (Day of the Child) is celebrated on April 30th. This day is set aside to value and uplift children.

As a way to stress the importance of bilingual literacy, several organizations worked together to link El Día de Los Niños to books, libraries and reading, and called the celebration “El Día de Los Niños/El Día de Los Libros” (Day of the Children, Day of the Books), or “Día” for short.

Author Pat Mora, one of the founders of Día says, "April 30th has become a day for remembering the power of words and books in the lives of our young people and for honoring all the languages spoken in the homes of this country. One in five of our school children comes from a home in which a language other than English is spoken." By honoring these languages, we celebrate our linguistic and cultural wealth."

Let your child know how special he or she is to you by snuggling up together with a favorite book... today and every day.

Book of the Month

¡Libro! Book!, by Kristine O’Connell George, illustrated by Maggie Smith

“My gift is flat and square– Rip that paper, what’s in there? Filled with lively text in English and Spanish, this brightly illustrated book celebrates a small child’s very first discovery of the magic and wonder contained within a book.

English/En Español Board Books:

Spring is Here/Llegó la Primavera, Taro Gomi
Rin, Rin, Rin/Do, Re, Mi, José-Luis Orozco
Te Amo, Bebé, Little One, Lisa Wheeler and Maribel Suarez
Buenos Días Baby! Libby Ellis
¡Fiesta!, Ginger Foglesong Guy
I Love My Daddy Because … /Quiero a mi papa porque …, Laurel Porter Gaylord

Celebrating Children:

Guess How Much I Love You? Sam McBratney
I Love You Just the Way You Are, Virginia Miller
Counting Kisses, Karen Katz
Mama, Do You Love Me? Barbara Joosse
More, More, More Said the Baby, Vera Williams
Elmer’s Friends, David McKee
In My Heart, Molly Bang
**Narrative Skills**

**Narrative Skills** are the ability to describe things and events and tell stories. Helping your child develop these skills when she is young will help her understand what she hears and later, what she reads. An example of a narrative skill is a child’s ability to tell what happens at a birthday party or on a trip to the zoo.

**Good Books to Build Narrative Skills:**

- Books with a repeated phrase (Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see? Purple cat, purple cat, what do you see?).
- Books with repeated parts of the story (The word “overboard” is repeated with enthusiasm each time the baby throws his things).
- Books where events happen in an order (The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Goodnight Gorilla).
- Any book! You can find lots of things in books to talk about with your child, no matter which book you choose.

What parents can do to help build Narrative Skills with babies and toddlers?

- Re-tell stories with your child using puppets or props.
- Talk about what is going on in the pictures.
- Ask your baby a question and then answer for her. “Your diaper needs changing; let’s do that right now, OK? Good! We’re going to change your diaper.”
- Ask your toddler to tell you about something that happened to him today; ask for more details so he can expand on his narrative.
- Use the language that is most comfortable for you!

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**Song**

*Song to Build Narrative Skills*

**Sing a song using the events in a story, or about the things you do everyday. Here is one to get you started:**

*To the tune of “Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush”*

This is the way we set the table,  
Set the table, Set the table.  
This is the way we set the table,  
Before we eat our meal.

This is the way we get our drinks,  
Get our drinks, Get our drinks.  
This is the way we get our drinks,  
Before we eat our meal.

This is the way we serve the food...  
Before we eat our meal.

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**What your library can do for you...**

Ask your librarian about special events planned for El Día de Los Niños/El Día de Los Libros.

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