



Read to Me News

From Your Public Library & Idaho's Read to Me Program

El Día de Los Niños / El Día de Los Libros Children's Day/Book Day

Throughout 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 of stressing the importance of bilingual literacy, several educational organizations have co-sponsored this initiative by linking the *El Día del Niños* celebration to books, libraries and reading; thus, the expanded title *Día de Los Niños/Día de Los Libros* (Day of the Children, Day of the Books).

Idaho is the first state in the nation to have an official Children's Day! It became effective in 2003 and is now a permanent observance. Many Idaho libraries and their community partners have been celebrating El Día de los Niños the past few years.

Children's days are celebrated in other nations, including Japan and Korea on May 5, Canada on November 20, Turkey on April 23 and Mexico on April 30. This is a day to celebrate the joys and wonders of childhood and the importance of books in our lives.

To find out more about El Día de Los Niños, see <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/initiatives/diadelosninos/index.cfm>



Book of the Month

Mañana, Iguana,
by Ann Whitford
Paul



The little red hen finds a south-of-the-border counterpart in this version seasoned with Spanish words. Iguana's idea to throw a *fiesta* meets with approval from her friends Conejo (rabbit), Tortuga (turtle), and Culebra (snake). However, as she prepares the invitations, stuffs the *piñata*, cooks the food, and hangs the streamers, Iguana asks for their assistance and is repeatedly given the same excuses. A glossary of Spanish terms and their pronunciations is included. A great choice for reading aloud.

Once you have read *Mañana Iguana* a few times with you child, ask him or her to help you retell the story. Other ways of helping develop narrative skills include:

- Listen to your child carefully when he or she talks or tells stories.
- Tell stories to your child - family stories, stories about when your child was born or adopted, and stories about other relatives are fun starters.
- Read wordless stories together and let your child tell the story.
- Help your child relate what is happening in the story to her own experience, for example, "What happened when we made a pinata?"



"April 30th can 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 children in this country comes from a home in which a language other than English is the home language. By honoring these languages, we celebrate our linguistic and cultural wealth."

- author Pat Mora

What you can do at home

If you and your child are more comfortable with Spanish, then sing, talk, and read with your child in Spanish. This will build your child's speaking, listening, and understanding skills. These skills will later help him or her speak and read English.

The gift of two languages

Knowing two languages is a gift you can give your child. Many children lose the ability to speak and read in Spanish when growing up in the United States. With encouragement from you, though, your child can become fluent in not just one language, but two!

If you don't know how to speak Spanish (or French or another language you think would be interesting), you can learn some vocabulary from children's books or ask at the library if your community has a bilingual storyhour, language tapes, or class.

Make Maracas!

You can make a simple maraca with your child by taking two plastic or styrofoam cups and placing a handful of dry beans in them. Use tape to seal them together. Decorate and shake away!

Make Tamales!

Make a dish from Latin America together -- like tamales, quesadillas (toasted tortillas with melted cheese inside), or tacos!

Song of the Month

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap clap)

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap clap)

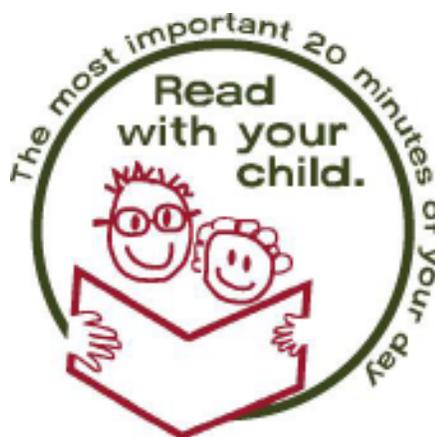
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (clap clap)

If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet (stomp stomp) [repeat other lines]

If you're happy and you know it, shout "Hurray!" (hoo-ray!) [repeat other lines]

If you're happy and you know it, do all three (clap-clap, stomp-stomp, hoo-ray!) [repeat]



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