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.
Narrative Skills

Narrative Skills is one of the early literacy skills that researchers say are important for children to have in order to learn to read. Narrative Skills include being able to describe things, to tell events in order, and to retell stories. Helping your child develop these skills when she is young will help her understand what she hears and reads.

Books That Build Narrative Skills:
- Books with a repeated phrase
- Books that repeat part of the story
- Books that tell a tale that builds on itself
- Books where the events happen in an order

Book Sharing:
- Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase together.
- Re-read books so that your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell the story.
- Have your child retell the story.
- Encourage your child to tell you something from her own experience related to what happened in the book.
- Use puppets or props to tell the story to help your child remember it; have your child use props to help retell the story.
- Encourage your child to talk about the pictures in the book even if what she says is not in the story. Ask open-ended questions, ones that cannot be answered with yes or no.
- Talk about the pictures in the book and let your child tell you his thoughts and experiences.
- Have your child draw pictures of the story and retell it or make up her own story.

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.

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.

Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.