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

Rin, Rin, Rin/Do, Re, Mi, by Jose-Louis Orozco, illustrated by David Diaz

Well-known children's songwriter Jose-Louis Orozco and Caldecott medalist David Diaz teamed up to create this romping, rhyming picture book. The Spanish words are the lyrics to an Orozco song that encourages readers to find and count items and words in the illustrations. You can find the English translation of the song, as well as the music, in the back of the book. Enjoy!

Bilingual Books:

Book Fiesta! Pat Mora
Hello Ocean! / Hola Mar, Pam Muñoz Ryan
iFiesta! and Siesta!, Ginger Fogelson Guy
Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet in Spanish and English, Alma Flor Ada

Celebrating a World of Children:

Mama, Do You Love Me? and Papa, Do You Love Me? Barbara Joosse
Whoever You Are, Mem Fox
It’s OK to Be Different, Todd Parr
Rhymes Round the World, Kay Chorao
On the Day You Were Born, Deborah Frasier
The Skin You Live In, Michael Tyler
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.

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

What can parents do to help build narrative skills?
- 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 and ask her to tell you about it.

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.

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