Did you know...

Reading books together can open the door to new countries, new foods, new traditions, and new languages. Explore the world while sitting on your couch. Read as a family!

If your home language isn’t English, it’s important to speak, read, and sing to your child in the language you speak at home. If children learn the basics of speech in the language of their home, it makes it easier to learn English as they grow older. It’s important that the culture of your native country is maintained. Children may switch words from both languages for a while, but they’ll soon sort it out.

If your home language is English, consider teaching your child some simple words in sign language or another language you want to try. It’s easier to learn a language when you are a young child than as an adult, and it will help them in this very diverse world we live in.

Here’s how...

- Check out books from the library that use phrases from different languages, such as *Say Hello!* by Rachel Isadora.

- Learn more about your family history and start a new tradition from a country that your family comes from. Example: make German pancakes for dinner one night.

- Check with your library to see if they are doing a Día de los niños (Children’s Day) activity this month. Día is celebrated on April 30 in communities across the United States.

Read

**Lola Reads to Leo/ Lola le lee al pequeño Leo, by Anna McQuinn**

From potty time to to bath time to nap time, Lola knows just the right book to read to her new baby brother, Leo.

Other Lola and Leo books:

Choosing Books

**Celebrating Children and Diversity:**
It is important for children to see themselves in books.

- *Buenos Dias Baby!* by Libby Ellis
- *Fiesta Babies*, by Carmen Tafolla
- *¡Libro!/Book!* by Kristine O’Connell George
- *Te Amo, Bebé, Little One*, by Lisa Wheeler
- *Ten Tiny Babies*, by Karen Katz
- *Global Babies*, by the Global Fund for Children
- *Smile!*, by Roberta Grobel Intrater
- *All Fall Down*, by Helen Oxenbury
Take your baby or toddler on outings and talk about the things you see. Use lots of describing words. “Look at that tiny bird! He’s hopping around looking for tasty bugs to eat.” Avoid using “baby talk,” such as “wa-wa” for water or “ba-ba” for bottle. Your little one needs to hear lots of real words and sentences every day.

When you’re out walking, encourage your child to pick things up and examine them. Tossing small stones, or poking things with a stick, help little hands and fingers begin to work together.

The Story Stomp

First you touch your nose, then you touch your toes.

Stomp-Stomp! *(stomp feet)*

Then you bend your back, and you start to clap.

Clap-Clap! *(clap hands)*

That’s the way it’s done, it’s a lot of fun.

Doin’ the wiggle-waggle story stomp! *(wiggle hips)*

Repeat 3 times, changing first line to:

Next you touch your lips, then you touch your hips...

Then you touch your tummy, and hop like a bunny...

Now you touch your eyes, and you wave bye-bye...

To see this song in action go to:

http://tinyurl.com/storystomp

~Washington County Cooperative Library Services (Oregon)

You Are My Sunshine

You are my sunshine,
My only sunshine.
You make me happy
When skies are gray.
You’ll never know dear,
How much I love you.

Please don’t take my sunshine away.

To hear the tune and more verses, see:

https://bussongs.com/songs/you-are-my-sunshine

Your librarian can help you find books in other languages at the public library, get them on loan from other Idaho libraries, or help you access them online.