

Did you know...



Every family has a story, and children love hearing about theirs. It's important to hear tales of when they were younger, or where they have lived. If you have a map, globe, or access to a computer, you can show them where their ancestors came from. It is hard for children to make the connections between family relationships. You can help them by showing them family photos or creating a family tree. Make sharing family stories a family tradition!

Every April there is a celebration of children and reading, El día de los niños/El día de los libros. It is 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," says Pat Mora, children's author.

Here's how...

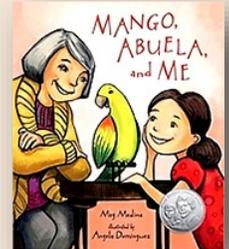


- ✦ Read to your child in the language that is most comfortable to you.
- ✦ Read books that feature different cultures or words so your child can be introduced to the diversity of the world they live in.
- ✦ Listen to music or watch videos from different cultures. Your local library is a good source for CDs and DVDs to borrow.
- ✦ Attend local cultural events in your community so your child can experience new food, new music, or new dancing. It is especially meaningful to attend events that reflect your family's heritage.

Read

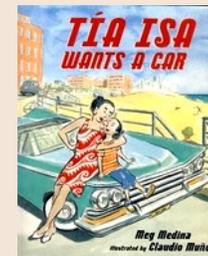


Mango, Abuela, and Me, by Meg Medina



Mia's grandmother leaves her far-away home to live with Mia's family, but Abuela doesn't speak much English, and Mia doesn't speak much Spanish. Can a parrot help them learn to communicate in both languages? This award-winning story speaks loud and clear about learning new things and the love that bonds family members.

Also by Meg Medina:



Choose Books



Celebrate Children and Diversity:

Angel Child, Dragon Child, by Michele Maria Surat

Carmen Learns English, by Judy Cox

Layla's Head Scarf, by Miriam Cohen

The Name Jar,
by Yangsook Choi

Something Beautiful, by Sharon Dennis
Wyeth

Thunder Boy Jr.,
by Sherman Alexie

Did you know?



Idaho public school children, kindergarten through 3rd grade, are given a short reading assessment each year in the fall and spring called the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI). It allows teachers and parents to monitor and provide support to young children as they learn to read.

By March/April, kindergarten children are expected to name most capital and lowercase letters and know the sounds of several consonants and vowels. Your child's teacher can tell you more about reading expectations and how to support your child at home.

Write



Let your child send a drawing and note to a grandparent or relative, telling them how much they love them. It will be a nice surprise!

Play



Grandma's Glasses

These are grandma's glasses.

(Make circles around eyes)

This is grandma's hat.

(Cup hands and place on head)

And this is the way she folds her hands
and puts them in her lap.

(Fold hands and put them in your lap)

(Say with a deep voice:)

These are grandpa's glasses.

(Make circles around eyes)

This is grandpa's hat.

(Pretend to put on a hat)

And this is the way he folds his arms

(Cross arms and fold)

Just like that!



Sing



My Auntie Monica

(Match body movements to words)

I have an aunt who dances,
my Auntie Monica,
and when we go out dancing
they all say, "Ooh, la, la!"
Ooh, la, la, ooh, la, la.

She likes to move her eyes,
like this, like this, like this.
She likes to spin and spin around,
Like this, like this, like this. Oh!

Repeat with:

She likes to move her nose.
She likes to move her head.
She likes to move her shoulders.
She likes to move her hands.
She likes to move her hips.
She likes to move her feet.
She likes to move her body.

See a version of this song from the
King County Library System:

<https://kcls.org/content/tia-monica-the-ooo-la-la-dancing-song/>



At your library...



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.