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.

Every April there is a celebration of children and reading, El día de los niños/El día de los libros. Author Pat Mora, one of the founders of “Dia,” says, 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.”

Ask your librarian about special events or programs planned for El día de los niños/El día de los libros.

**Choosing Books**

- Check out a variety of books from your local public library.
- Listen to music or watch videos from different cultures.
- 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.
- Make a special food to eat that is from a country in your family’s history. Example: make German pancakes for dinner.

**Celebrating Children and Diversity:**

- *Elizabeti’s Doll*, by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen
- *Everybody Cooks Rice*, by Norah Dooley
- *Hairs/Pelitos*, by Sandra Cisneros
- *On Mother’s Lap*, by Ann Herbert Scott
- *One Family*, by George Shannon
- *Thunder Boy Jr.*, by Sherman Alexie
- *Whoever You Are*, by Mem Fox
- *Shades of People*, by Shelley Rotner
- *Same, Same, but Different*, by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw
Storytelling is a great way to talk with your child. Tell your child stories about when you were a child. Have your child tell you a story about something that has happened to them. Encourage them to add details to the story by asking open-ended questions at the end of the story — who, what, when, where, why.

Let your child lay on her back on the sidewalk or porch, and trace her body with a piece of sidewalk chalk. Help her color in her hair, face, clothes. Writing with chalk is a good way to develop finger muscles, and it washes away!

_Storytime_

When the sun lights up the sky,  
(wave arms above head)
I sit right up and rub my eyes.  
(rub eyes)
I dress myself with greatest care,  
(pretend to step into pants)
I brush my teeth and comb my hair.  
(pretend to brush teeth and comb hair)
Then off to story hour I go,  
(march in place)
To hear the stories  
that I love so.

Visit your local library for storytimes, fun activities, and much more!

_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)~

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.