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

Abuela, by Arthur Dorros
While in the park feeding the birds with her abuela (grandmother), Rosalba wonders what it would be like to fly--and in her imagination they soar off together to see the sights. This is a beautiful book full of bright illustrations, and it is a great story for your child to re-tell! (See Narrative Skills, page 2.)

Some Bilingual Books:

Book Fiesta! Pat Mora
Hair/Pelitos, Sandra Cisneros
I love Saturdays y domingos, Alma Flor Ada

Hello Ocean! / ¡Hola Mar!, Pam Muñoz Ryan
In English, of Course / En inglés, por supuesto, Josephine Nobisso

Celebrating Children:

Children Around the World, Donata Montanari
A Bad Case of Stripes, David Shannon
The Name Jar, Yangsook Choi
Amazing Grace, Mary Hoffman
The Colors of Us, Karen Katz

One Green Apple, Eve Bunting
The Other Side, Jacquelyn Woodson
I Love You the Purplest, Barbara Joosse
Jingle Dancer, Cynthia Leitich Smith
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?
- Re-read books so that your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell.
- Encourage your child to tell you something from her own experience related to what happened in the book.
- Encourage your child to 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.
- Have your child draw pictures of the story and retell it.
- Encourage your child to tell his own stories. Ask questions such as, “What happens next?” “What does the dog in the story look like?”
- When your child shows you a drawing she made, say, “Tell me about your artwork.” Encourage her to describe the colors and shapes, or what the characters are doing.

Riddles
- From the Texas State Library Commission

¿Por qué los pájaros vuelan hacia el Sur?
*Why do birds fly south for the winter?*
Porque tardarían más si se fueran caminando. Because it is too far to walk.

¿Qué animal come con la cola?
*What animal eats with its tail?*
Todos, ninguno se la quita para comer. All of them. Not one takes it off when they eat.

Tongue Twister
Cuando cuentes cuentos
*When you tally tales*
Cuenta cuántos cuentos cuentas,
(Tally total tales told.)
Porque cuando cuentas cuentos
(Because when you tally tales)
Nunca sabes cuántos cuentos cuentas.
(No telling total tales told.)

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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