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.

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**Book of the Month**

It’s Spring! by Samantha Berger and Pamela Chanko, illustrated by Melissa Sweet

The robin told the rabbit...The rabbit told the deer...The deer told the duck...Then all the birds began to sing to tell the bears, “Wake up, it’s spring!”

The rhyming text and charming illustrations spread the news that spring is here!

**Bilingual Books:**

- Spring is Here/Llegó la Primavera, Taro Gomi
- ¡Libro!/Book! Kristine O’Connell George
- Te Amo, Bebé, Little One, Lisa Wheeler and Maribel Suarez
- Elmer’s Friends, David McKee
- Buenos Dias Baby! Libby Ellis

**Celebrating Children:**

- Guess How Much I Love You? Sam McBratney
- I Love You Just the Way You Are, Virginia Miller
- Counting Kisses, Karen Katz
- Mama, Do You Love Me? Barbara Joosse
- More, More, More Said the Baby, Vera Williams
Narrative Skills

**Narrative Skills** is one of the early literacy skills that researchers say are important for children to have in order to learn to read. Narrative Skills include being able to describe things, to tell events in order, and to retell stories. Helping your child develop these skills when she is young will help her understand what she hears and reads.

**Good Books to Build Narrative Skills:**

- Books with a repeated phrase (Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see? Purple cat, purple cat, what do you see?)
- Books with repeated parts of the story (The word “overboard” is repeated with enthusiasm each time the baby throws his things.)
- Books that tell a tale that keeps building (In It’s Spring! the rabbit tells the deer, the deer tells the bunny... all the way to the bears!)
- Books where events happen in an order (The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Goodnight, Gorilla)
- Any book! You can find lots of things in books to talk about with your child, no matter which book you choose.

**Narrative Skills with Babies and Toddlers:**

- Do an activity that builds on itself, like making a block tower, or stringing cheerios on yarn. Talk about the process and the order you are using: Say, “First we..., then we ..., and finally we ...”
- Re-tell stories with your child using puppets or props.
- Talk about what is going on in the pictures.
- Use the language that is most comfortable for you!

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**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.

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**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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