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 Children) 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!

See page 2 to find out how to develop your child’s love of reading, or print motivation.

Book of the Month

¡Vamos a disfrutar!/Let's Have Fun! by Scholastic

What does your baby or toddler like to do? Let's Have Fun is one in a series of books that contain colorful photographs of young children and everyday objects. Your little one will love snuggling up with you to talk and read, in both English and Spanish.

Series:

English/En Español Board Books:

Fiesta Babies, Carmen Tafolla
Rin, Rin, Rin/Do, Re, Mi, José-Luis Orozco
Te Amo, Bebé, Little One, Lisa Wheeler and Maribel Suarez
Spring is Here/Llegó la Primavera, Taro Gomi
Buenos Dias Baby! Libby Ellis
More, More, More Said the Baby, Vera Williams
Libro! /Book! Kristine O'Connell George

Celebrating Children:

Guess How Much I Love You? Sam McBratney
Mama, Do You Love Me? Barbara Joosse
Counting Kisses, Karen Katz
Help your young child get ready to read...

Developing a love of reading, or **print motivation**, is one of the six early literacy skills that help young children become readers when they begin school. Researchers have found that children who enjoy books are more likely to stick with learning to read. The way we share books with children can help their enjoyment of books.

Here's how you can help your child become interested in books:

- Make book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy!
- Begin reading books early, even when your child is a newborn.
- Let your child see you reading and enjoying reading.
- Visit your public library often. Make it a special night or day of the week and make a big deal about it.
- Let toddlers choose the books they want to read or have read to them.
- Give books as gifts.
- Very young children have a short attention span, so keep reading activities brief and fun. Don’t worry about finishing a story.
- Share rhymes and songs that young children enjoy. Keeping books fun will keep them coming back for more.

Song to sing with your child

**The More We Get Together**

The more we get together,
together, together.
The more we get together,
the happier we'll be.

’Cause your friends are my friends
and my friends are your friends.
The more we get together,
the happier we’ll be!

En Español

Mientras más estemos juntos,
juntos, juntos
mientras más estemos juntos,
más felices seremos.
Tus amigos son los míos,
Y los míos son los tuyos.
Mientras más estemos juntos,
iMás felices seremos!

What your library can do for you...

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