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.
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 when they learn in school. 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.

Fingerplay for Toddlers

¿Donde Está?
(Tune of “Frère Jacques”)
¿Donde está, donde está
Mi familia, mi familia?
Aquí está mama (Touch thumb)
Y también papa, (Touch pointer finger)
Y mis hermanitos, (Touch each of the last three fingers)
Y mis hermanitos.

Action Rhyme for Babies

(Kiss baby’s body parts)
Kissy, kissy fingers; kissy, kissy toes.
Kissy, kissy baby on your kissy, kissy nose.
I love to kiss your fingers,
I love to kiss your toes,
I love to kiss my baby,
On his/her kissy, kissy nose!

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