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
Let’s Eat, by Ana Zamorano
Enjoying the delicious meals that Mama prepares every day, from chick pea soup and empanadas to sardinas and roast pollo, is a way for Antonio’s family to show love and celebrate each other. You and your child will enjoy talking about your own family traditions and favorite dishes as you snuggle up to read together!

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
I Know the River Loves Me/ Yo sé que el río me ama, Maya Christina Gonzalez

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
Jingle Dancer, Cynthia Leitich Smith
Grandma Calls Me Beautiful, Barbara Joosse

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A child’s love of reading begins with you!

Developing a love of reading, or print motivation, is one of the six early literacy skills that help children become readers in 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. To be motivated to read, kids need to:

- see reading as a fun and enjoyable activity.
- see reading as a social act to be shared with others.
- see reading as a chance to explore their interests.
- read for many purposes; from enjoyment to gathering information.
- become comfortable with different kinds and types of writing.

You can help develop print motivation in your school-age child by:

- making book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy!
- letting your child see you reading and enjoying reading.
- visiting your public library often.
- letting children choose the books they want to read or have read to them.
- giving books as gifts.
- making reading time fun, not a chore.

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