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."

Let your child know how special he or she is to you by snuggling up together with a favorite book... today and every day!

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

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!

More by Arthur Dorros:

More books that celebrate children:

Angel Child, Dragon Child, by Michelle Maria Surat

Book Fiesta!, by Pat Mora

Carmen Learns English, by Judy Cox

Elizabeti's Doll, by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

Ella Sarah Gets Dressed, by Margaret Chodos-Irving

Hair/Pelitos, by Sandra Cisneros

Layla’s Head Scarf, by Miriam Cohen

My Name is Yoon, by Helen Recorvits

The Name Jar, by Yangsook Choi
More fun with Abuela…

Make a book… Stack five pieces of paper together and fold them in half to make a book. Staple the folded edge to fasten the pages in place. Tell a story to your child starting with:

- “When you were a baby…”
- “One time when I was your age…”
- “These were the chores I did as a child..”
- Other stories about your childhood

Write some simple words on each page that describe the story. Your child can draw pictures to illustrate it, and you now have a family story to read together.

Tech time… You can find and listen to children’s books in other languages at uniteforliteracy.com. Explore books in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Karen, Karenni, Korean, Navajo, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Many of the books are nonfiction with photographic illustrations.

Recognizing Reading Problems

By: Reading Rockets (2007)

Learning to read is a challenge for many kids, but most can become good readers if they get the right help. Parents have an important job in recognizing when a child is struggling and knowing how to find help.

What to look for:

- Difficulty rhyming
- Difficulty hearing individual sounds
- Difficulty following directions
- Difficulty re-telling a story
- Struggles to sound out most words
- Avoids reading aloud

If you think your kindergartener is struggling with learning to read, talk to her teacher sooner rather than later. The school can provide free support if needed!

Song

It’s a Small World

- Robert and Richard Sherman, 1964

It’s a world of laughter
A world of tears.
It’s a world of hopes
And a world of fears.
There’s so much that we share
That it’s time we’re aware,
It’s a small world after all!

Chorus: It’s a small world after all.
It’s a small world after all.
It’s a small world after all,
It’s a small, small world.

There is just one moon
And one golden sun.
And a smile means
Friendship to every one.
Though the mountains divide
And the oceans are wide,
It’s a small world after all!

Sing Chorus Again

What your library can do for you…

Your librarian can help you find books in other languages at the public library, get them on loan from other Idaho libraries, or help you access them online.

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