

It's a School DÍA! ¡Es un DÍA de escuela!

Around the globe, Children's Day celebrates children and promotes child welfare. In the United States, *Día de los niños / Día de los libros* promotes literacy in English and other languages. It is an opportunity to share the importance and joy of reading and to celebrate our multilingual, multicultural identity.

Schools are where communities come together. Families from different backgrounds may not be familiar or completely comfortable with the public library system. Schools, on the other hand, connect all families. They are the perfect place to celebrate children and literacy!

Many *El día de los niños / El día de los libros* events will include children of different cultures who speak a variety of languages. Spanish Playground will focus on ideas for serving Spanish/English speakers, but the activities can be adapted to other languages or to include several languages.

Whether you celebrate *Día* as a school, a class or a family, you will want fun, low-prep activities to engage children with books. Bilingual picture books bridge languages and cultures and are a wonderful resource for your event.

Spanish Playground's Easy Día Ideas

- Tap into kids, parents and teachers to do read alouds. Include stories in languages other than English.
- Include a book exchange or book donation table where families can choose a book to take home.
- Invite parents and teachers to read a favorite picture book or excerpt from a favorite book.
- Kids can illustrate parts of their favorite stories as decorations.
- Set up a corner where children can read to younger kids.
- Have children present a reader's theater of a favorite book.
- Have a craft table where kids can color and decorate bookmarks or coloring sheets related to books. Include text in different languages.
- Have a "book review" corner where children talk about books they have read. Other kids and parents can ask about the books.

Spanish Playground's No-Prep Activities for Bilingual Picture Books

One Story - Two Languages - See printable activity.

In classroom centers or at a group event, display several bilingual picture books for kids to read. Put a *One Story - Two Languages* sheet with each book.

After reading the story, kids choose a word and find the equivalent in the other language. They record the word in both languages on the *One Story - Two Languages* page for that title. After your celebration, display the lists so children can revisit the story.

This activity is best with picture books with a limited amount of text on each page. It is great fun when a number of kids add to the list for each book. You can also adapt the activity for each child to work with one book.

Bilingual Bean Bag Toss

Make a target by arranging bilingual picture books face-up on the floor with the edges touching. Use a minimum of 3 books square and more for a larger target. Put something under the books to keep them clean if necessary.

Kids toss bean bags onto the book target. Assign points to the books if you want to keep score. When a bean bag lands on a book, have kids read the title of the book in both languages.

Words We Love

After reading a bilingual picture book, kids chose a word they like from the story in either language and write it on a sticky note. Put the notes into an outlined shape on a wall. Alternatively, kids put the words on small cards. Hang them with ribbon to make a *words-we-love* tree.

Picture Dictionary

After reading a story, kids choose a word and find the equivalent word in the other language. Children draw a picture to illustrate the word and label it in both languages. Display their drawings as they finish.

Alternatively, you provide words or a sentence from the story in both languages for kids to illustrate.

Bilingual Scavenger Hunt - See printable activity.

Give children a list of clues to words to find in both languages. The clues are general enough to fit many books. Kids can read several picture books to find their words. For example, clues might be: *A word that starts with p in English. A word that starts with p in Spanish. A number in English. A number in Spanish, etc.*

Key Word Bilingual Read Aloud. Read a book with integrated Spanish, like *Maya's Blanket* or choose 2 or 3 key words from the bilingual text to integrate into the English read aloud. Point to the illustrations as you use the words and encourage kids to repeat them. Once kids have heard and said the words a few times, pause and let them help you say the words as part of the story.

Bilingual Picture Book Recommendations

English-Spanish

Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children's Day / Book Day; Celebramos El dia de los ninos/El dia de los libros by Pat Mora and Rafael Lopez

Call Me Tree / Llámame Árbol by Maya Christina Gonzalez

Cecilia and Miguel Are Best Friends / Cecilia y Miguel Son Mejores Amigos by Diane Gonzales Bertrand

Finding the Music / En pos de la música by Jennifer Torres

Gracias • Thanks by Pat Mora

Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match / Marisol McDonald no combina by Monica Brown

Maya's Blanket / La manta de Maya by Monica Brown

¡Olinguito, de la A a la Z! Descubriendo el bosque nublado / Olinguito, from A to Z! Unveiling the Cloud Forest by Lulu Delacre

Siesta by Ginger Foglesong Guy

The Place Where You Live / El lugar donde vives by James Luna

Uncle Nacho's Hat / El sombrero del Tío Nacho by Harriet Rohmer

Other Languages

You can adapt the activities suggested above for languages with other alphabets and characters.

- Try a picture scavenger hunt.
- Pair children with different dominant languages.
- Show English speakers the word or character for key words and have them find the words in the text.

Taglog/English

Lakas and the Manilatown Fish by Anthony Robles

Chinese/English

The Dragon Lover and Other Chinese Proverbs by Yong-Shen Xuan

Vietnamese/English

Going Home, Coming Home by Truong Tran

More Día Ideas!

Children's Days, Book Days: Planning for a Día Year from Pat Mora. Planning and programing ideas from acclaimed author and founder of *Día*.

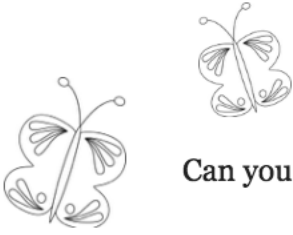
Día Resources from the American Library Association, a major supporter of *Día de los niños / Día de los libros*

Spanish Playground Día Resources - Additional resources including a printable of *10 Ways for Families to Celebrate Día* (in Spanish and English) to share with parents. You will also find many Spanish language activities for children and book recommendations.

Vamos a Leer - *Vamos a Leer* is overseen by the Latin American & Iberian Institute at the University of New Mexico. They have many book recommendations.

Colorín Colorado A national website serving educators and families of English language learners. Check out their *Día* ideas!

Texas State Library and Archives Commission: Día Celebration Ideas



Bilingual Book Scavenger Hunt

Can you find these words as you read? Write the word next to the clue.

A word in English for an animal. _____

A word in Spanish for an animal. _____

A number in English. _____

A number in Spanish. _____

A color in English. _____

A color in Spanish. _____

A word in English for a family member. _____

A word in Spanish for a family member. _____

A word in English for something you can eat. _____

A word in Spanish for something you can eat. _____

A word in English for something small. _____

A word in Spanish for something small. _____

A word in English that starts with the letter m. _____

A word in Spanish that starts with the letter m. _____

A name of a person, place or animal. _____

What books did you read to find the words?





Búsqueda Bilingüe

Busca estas palabras mientras lees. Escribe la palabra al lado de la pista.

Una palabra en inglés para un animal. _____

Una palabra en español para un animal. _____

Un número en inglés. _____

Un número en español. _____

Un color en inglés. _____

Un color en español. _____

Una palabra en inglés para un miembro de la familia. _____

Una palabra en español para un miembro de la familia. _____

Una palabra en inglés para algo que se pueda comer. _____

Una palabra en español para algo que se pueda comer. _____

Una palabra en inglés para algo pequeño. _____

Una palabra en español para algo pequeño. _____

Una palabra en inglés que empiece con la letra m. _____

Una palabra en español que empiece con la letra m. _____

El nombre de una persona, un animal o un lugar. _____

¿Qué libros leíste para encontrar las palabras?



