

## Families as Children's Day, Book Day Partners

Since Día is a daily commitment, creatively involve parents, adult and young adult family members throughout the year as literacy partners. This list focuses on the particular role libraries, educational institutions, and nonprofits play in empowering families who may not view themselves as literacy mentors. Diverse strategies are essential for motivating all community families to be reading families.

1. Provide staff training to increase the effectiveness of literacy programming and outreach for diverse populations within the community.
2. Affirm the importance of multilingual families as literacy partners by using multiple languages in greetings and on signs, ads, web pages, graphics, posters and in family **bookjoy** sessions throughout the year.
3. Partner with families who speak other languages in presenting bilingual story times, programs, and literacy games.
4. Demystify your school and library with family tours and presentations that address the interests and concerns of the families served, showcase resources and encourage participation in programs such as Summer Reading.
5. Engage families as storytellers and in creating and sharing literacy posters and kits, and in exploring ways to create and share stories digitally.
6. Model creative strategies for instilling **bookjoy** at home such as sharing family stories/photos/drawings and reading together.
7. Be innovative in helping families create libraries at home, seeking book donations where possible. If you serve kids in need, First Book provides free and low-cost new books and other resources. (Sign up at [firstbook.org/libros](http://firstbook.org/libros)).
8. Introduce and model reading, writing, and arts activities including having families write, illustrate and share their own books.
9. Establish monthly family literacy nights at which students, teachers, and families collaborate in presenting thematic storytelling, puppet shows, etc. to the community.
10. Provide relevant sessions to assist families to be literacy advocates in their family and community, tailoring sessions to their reading practices and languages.
11. With families as partners, plan, implement and assess family literacy leadership training as part of your efforts to empower families within the school or library community.
12. Start an outreach storytelling program in which families volunteer at hospitals and retirement homes or in which older children read aloud to younger ones.
13. Form book clubs for the various literacy levels in your community by assessing the impact of literacy and literature programs on the various communities served.
14. Encourage families to visit the local public and school libraries, to volunteer, check out materials, and collaborate in Día celebration programming.
15. Invite families to be active members of your Children's Day, Book Day celebration planning committee. You'll wonder how you got along without their fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Involve local celebrities whom your families admire as literacy promoters.