

# READ *and* LEARN with FIRST BOOK!



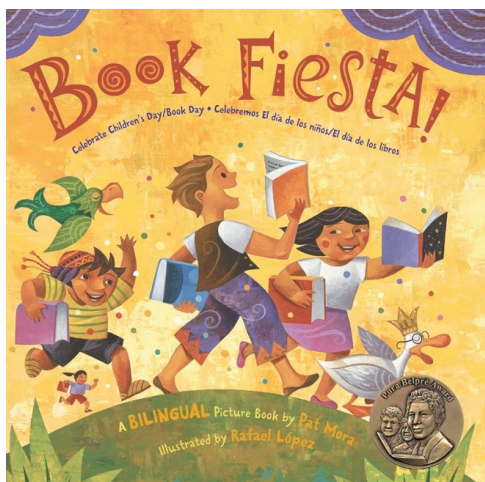
*First Book developed this tip sheet, based on your feedback, to help you better serve English language learners. Use the activities in this guide to engage and motivate them as together you explore experiences common to many immigrant children and their families. Also included is a letter to send home (in English and Spanish) to engage caregivers in conversations about the story and extend the learning with an easy activity.*

*To discover more books and educational resources, visit [www.fbmarketplace.org](http://www.fbmarketplace.org).*

## BOOK FIESTA! CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S DAY/BOOK DAY; CELEBREMOS EL DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS/EL DÍA DE LOS LIBROS

by **Pat Mora**

illustrated by **Rafael López**



*Book Fiesta!* is a bilingual (English/Spanish) book that introduces readers to a very special day known as Día, short for *El día de los niños/El día de los libros* (Children's Day/Book Day). Día is dedicated to celebrating the joy of books and reading in all languages. Diverse children and families fill the pages of this book, reading with their favorite friends and in their favorite places—even in a hot air balloon!

### Expert Insights into This Book

This book is especially great for engaging families of English language learners. One of the main messages of *Book Fiesta!* is that reading for fun is important for all children, no matter what their home languages are or how fluent they are in English. In addition, it speaks to the experience of a significant number of families who come from Mexico, many of whom have fond childhood memories of *El día de los niños* celebrations.

**See next page for activities & more**



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## THINGS to TALK ABOUT

Use the questions and ideas below to get kids thinking and talking about the story.

1. Do you have a favorite book that you like to look at or read?
2. Where is your favorite place to read? Do you have other people with whom you enjoy reading?
3. What other things could you read in addition to books?
4. How can you share books and stories with someone who doesn't yet know how to read?
5. The Mexican holiday of Children's Day inspired this book. How would you like to celebrate Children's Day?

## THINGS to DO

### Have a Book Fiesta:

Some ideas for engaging students at your book fiesta include letting them select the books you read, dressing up as a character from a book you are reading, selecting folktales from different parts of the world and acting them out, inviting "celebrity" guest readers from the community to your class, or visiting the local public library for a special story time program. If you serve in a library or community program, ask parents to help you organize your book fiesta and watch them engage in ways you might not have expected.

### Host a Family Reading Event:

Invite families to visit your program to celebrate reading. Read *Book Fiesta!* aloud to the group or have several copies available for children and their families to read together. Look up how to say "book" in many different languages and encourage families to share the word in the home language they speak. Top off the event by having children and their families make their own books using art supplies, card stock, a hole punch and string.

## DID you KNOW?

*El día de los niños*, or Children's Day, is a holiday celebrated throughout Mexico on April 30. In 1996, Pat Mora (author of *Book Fiesta!*) and several partners decided to create a new holiday in the United States, aligning *El día de los niños* with a celebration of books and literacy for all, in all languages. Día now stands for Diversity In Action, and Día celebrations can be found in schools, libraries, museums, and other organizations across the country in late April. Learn more and find an event near you at [dia.ala.org](http://dia.ala.org).

See next page for a letter to send home to caregivers



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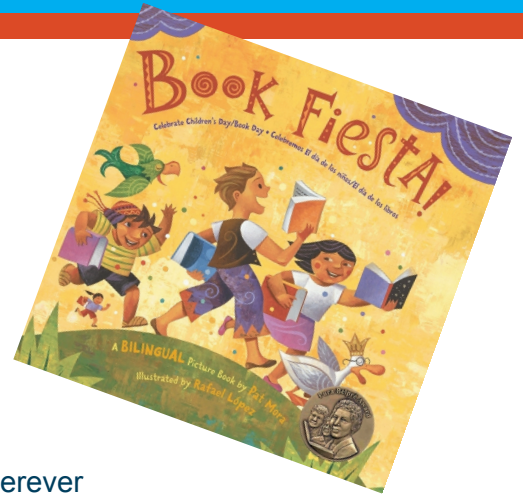
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# SEE what WE'VE been READING!



## Dear Family,

We recently read *Book Fiesta!* by Pat Mora together. This title celebrates books and the joy of reading every day, especially on a special day known as Children's Day/Book Day, or Día. It encourages us to have our own book fiesta (party or celebration) wherever we are, with whoever is there, and in whatever language or languages we read best.



You can help further your child's learning at home by asking your child to tell you what he or she remembers about the book. Also try the following activities:

Making time to read together with your child every day will help him or her become a strong reader. Read in the language that you know best, and be sure that your child sees you reading for fun from time to time. If you don't think you're a great reader, that's okay! You can tell your child stories that you remember from your childhood, or look through a picture book and make up your own story. You can also help your child learn new words by talking and singing together. Remember to provide a quiet area for your child to read and do homework, and don't forget that you are your child's first and most important teacher!

Thank you for supporting your child's reading journey! To continue learning together, visit your local library to borrow books and explore programs and events. Many libraries, schools, museums, community organizations, and parks also host special activities to celebrate Día in late April.

## Happy reading!



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# ¡VEA lo que hemos estado LEYENDO!



## Estimada Familia,

Hace poco, leímos el libro de Pat Mora llamado *Book Fiesta!*. Éste libro es una celebración de la literatura juvenil y de la alegría que el leer a diario nos puede brindar. En éste la autora nos anima a celebrar nuestra propia fiesta en honor a los libros, no importa en dónde estemos, con quién estemos, o en qué idioma leamos mejor.



Para reforzar lo que su hijo/a está aprendiendo, pídale que le cuente lo que recuerda del libro. Además de esto, puede intentar la siguiente actividad con él o ella:

Tomar el tiempo a diario para leer junto con los hijos puede ayudarles a ellos a convertirse en buenos lectores. Lea con ellos en el idioma que usted entiende mejor, y asegúrese de que le vean leyendo por el simple hecho de que vean que usted disfruta la lectura. Si usted no se considera alguien que lee mucho, ¡no hay problema! Puede en vez contarle historias que usted recuerda de su niñez, u hojear los dibujos de un libro de cuentos mientras se inventa en voz alta su propia historia. También puede ayudarle a su hijo/a a aprender nuevas palabras cada vez que hablen y canten juntos. Recuerde proveerle a su hijo/a un área tranquila en donde pueda él o ella leer y hacer sus tareas. ¡No olvide que usted es la maestra/el maestro más importante de la vida de su hijo/a!

¡Gracias por apoyar a su hijo/a en su aprendizaje de la lectura! Para seguir aprendiendo juntos, visite su biblioteca pública para pedir prestado libros y explorar programas y eventos (para niños y adultos).

A finales de abril, se montan actividades especiales en muchas de las bibliotecas, las escuelas, los museos, las organizaciones comunitarias, y los parques municipales con el propósito de celebrar el Día del Niño. ¡Indague y asista a una de ellas con su familia!

## ¡Feliz lectura!



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