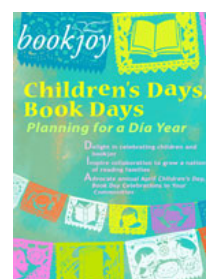


Día in the Classroom: 8 Ideas for Teachers

By Lydia Breiseth & Rachael Walker

[El día de los niños/El día de los libros](#) (Children's Day/Book Day) is a celebration of childhood and literacy. Borrowing from the traditional Mexican holiday "El día de los niños," the American version expanded to include literacy when acclaimed author [Pat Mora](#) took up the cause in 1996. In 2016, the nationwide celebration referred to as "Día" will celebrate its 20th anniversary.

While public libraries have championed Día, it is also a wonderful opportunity to promote literacy in schools and to connect with diverse families around books. Here are a range of ideas, including a number of recommendations from Pat Mora's [Día Planning booklet](#), to help you bring the spirit of Día to your school and classroom.



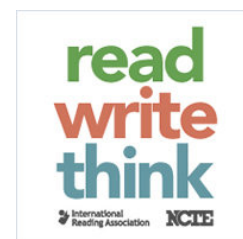
Look for a special book to share with your students on April 30th. Pat has a great list of [Día books](#) on her website and you can also find books about the library from Colorín Colorado's [Library Stories](#) booklist. If possible, try to find books that represent different cultures. One particularly special book celebrating Día is the award-winning *Book Fiesta* by Pat Mora and illustrated by Rafael Lopez. Pat shares the [story behind](#) *Book Fiesta* in this video interview.

Look for special people to share books and stories with your students and [celebrate reading in two languages](#). Invite a guest reader such as a parent or community member to share books in other languages, followed by another reader sharing the same title in English. You can also invite a storyteller or musician to come to the school to share stories and songs from different cultures.

Partner with your school librarian or public librarian to plan a special activity for Día. It could be a read-aloud, [game](#), or [craft](#) on April 30th – or anytime throughout April! For great activity ideas, take a look at Pat Mora's [website](#).

Learn more about Day of the Child celebrations. Ask your students what they think about having a Day of the Child holiday and why it's important to tie that day to reading. Find out how the Day of the Child is celebrated in Mexico and other countries and look for tie-ins to Social Studies lessons that present an opportunity to learn about new places. The National Latino Children's Institute offers [more information](#) on this celebration.

Look for tie-ins to reading and writing in the classroom. ReadWriteThink offers a list of student activities for Día that include [writing and sharing multilingual stories](#), and Monica Olivera offers [other activities](#) for teachers



and families on her Mommy Maestra blog.

For older students, look for opportunities to partner with younger students. This may include reading aloud in other classes, doing crafts or activities, or sharing their favorite books from earlier ages. Older students will be especially welcome visitors in ESL classes and special education classes.

Find out if your local library celebrates Día. As the celebration grows, it's easier to [find a place](#) where it's happening! If you do have an event nearby, spread the word with your families. If you have time to attend, lend a hand, or learn more, drop in on the event!

Start a Día Family Book Club. The Día Family Book Club is a program organized by the Association for Library Services for Children. The Book Clubs offer [toolkits](#) and [activity ideas](#) for multicultural books for different ages. For additional bilingual activity ideas, see [Colorín Colorado's ELL Family Toolkit](#) and [Family Literacy Packs](#), as well as the [Start with a Book Website](#) from Reading Rockets.



Other Resources

Celebrate reading in any language with the following multilingual resources from Colorín Colorado!

- Resource Section: [El día de los niños/El día de los libros](#)
- Recommended Books: [Multicultural booklists for children and young adults](#)
- Pat Mora: [Video interview with Colorín Colorado](#)
- Toolkit: [Teachers: Reaching Out to Hispanic Parents of ELLs](#)
- Tip Sheet for Parents: [The Resources at Your Library](#)
- Tip Sheet for Parents: [Reading with Your Child](#) (in 11 languages)



About Colorín Colorado

Colorín Colorado is the premier national website serving educators and families of English language learners (ELLs) in Grades PreK-12. Colorín Colorado has been providing free research-based information, activities, and advice to schools and communities around the country for more than a decade. Major support for Colorín Colorado is provided by its founding partner, the American Federation of Teachers, with additional generous support from the National Education Association.

About the Authors

Lydia Breiseth is the Manager of Colorín Colorado, a national award-winning bilingual website serving educators and parents of English language learners. In this capacity, Ms. Breiseth manages multimedia content, web production, outreach, and partnerships on behalf of the project. Additionally, Ms. Breiseth has been actively involved in supporting Día initiatives and was recognized in 2011 as a [Día Dynamo](#).

[Rachael Walker](#) is a literacy outreach consultant who is passionate about helping kids develop a love of reading. She has more than twenty years of experience in bringing organizations together to promote children's literacy and has created and supported partnerships with organization such as Reading Is Fundamental, National Education Association, the Afterschool Alliance, HarperCollins Children's Books, Random House Children's Books, the World Wildlife Fund and WETA's Learning Media initiatives: Reading Rockets, Colorín Colorado and AdLit.org. Rachael blogs at [Belle of the Book](#), devoted to "enchanted young readers with great books and fun activities."