

Introduction to the Tool Kit

Audience for the Tool Kit

The purpose of this document is to increase the awareness and participation of the *El día de los niños/El día de los libros* celebration. The tool kit is designed as a "how to" manual for librarians/teachers, both experienced and new to their respective fields, wanting to prepare such a celebration. Some librarians/teachers may use the ideas to supplement general *El día de los niños* celebrations in their communities. Others will use the programming suggestions for their own *El día de los niños/El día de los libros* celebrations focusing exclusively on children and their literacy.

Objectives of the Tool Kit

Although members of *El día de los niños/El día de los libros* Committee recognize that celebrations around Texas involve children from many countries and cultures who speak a variety of languages, this particular tool kit will highlight resources and ideas for serving Spanish/English-speaking children. While the books may change, and the practices presented here can be adapted for other language groups, this guide will focus on Spanish language materials and books about Latino/Hispanic youth.

And although the Texas Library Association recognizes that *El día de los niños/El día de los libros* celebrations may well incorporate a number of non-book related activities, this guide will present suggestions directly related to literacy and literature. Activities can be used alone, be grouped together, or function as a part of *El día de los niños* celebration that brings together many cultural interests.

This tool kit is provided for librarians and library staff, both those fluent in Spanish and English and those possessing only one language, working with children in both school and public libraries. Although this tool kit is aimed at non-Spanish-speaking librarians, the ideas and programs should also prove of interest to those fluent in both languages who are working with children in both school and public libraries.

Materials Cited in the Tool Kit

Most of the children's books and media, as well as professional references, are noted in the tool kit with only author and title. Complete citations can be found in the accompanying bibliography. Information contained in this tool kit is free of copyright restrictions for non-commercial use if the Texas Library Association is credited.

Committee Members

Members of an *ad hoc* committee appointed by the Texas Library Association created this tool kit and other materials to increase participation in *El día de los niños/El día de los libros* celebrations. Committee members brought ideas from their respective communities and integrated them into the tool kit. Committee members are: Dr. Barry M. Bishop, Administrator for Library Information Services, Spring Branch ISD, Houston, Texas (TLA Board Liaison); Betty Carter, Consultant, Coppell, Texas; Anna Cruz, Director of Libraries/Parental Involvement, San Benito Consolidated Independent School District, San Benito, Maribel Garza-Castro, Library Specialist, Houston ISD, Houston, Texas; Jan Gregory, Librarian, Austin Elementary School, San Angelo, Texas; Amanda Hernández, Assistant Librarian, Hondo Public Library, Hondo, TX; Patricia L. Hernández, Ysleta Library Branch Manager, El Paso, Texas; Jiun C. Kuo, Head of Cataloging, Rice University, Houston, Texas; Jeanette Larson, Youth Services Manager, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas; Solina Kasten Marquis, Youth Services Librarian, Frisco Public Library, Frisco, Texas; John Sigwald, Librarian, Unger Memorial Library, Plainview, Texas; Rose Treviño (Chair), Youth Services Coordinator, Houston Public Library, Houston, Texas; Sylvia Vardell, Professor of Literature for Children and Young Adults, School of Library and Information Studies, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas.