

# El día de los niños El día de los libros

is a celebration of childhood and bilingual literacy. This program began in 1997 under the leadership of author Pat Mora, who joined forces with REFORMA (the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking), to bring attention to family literacy and to focus on children.

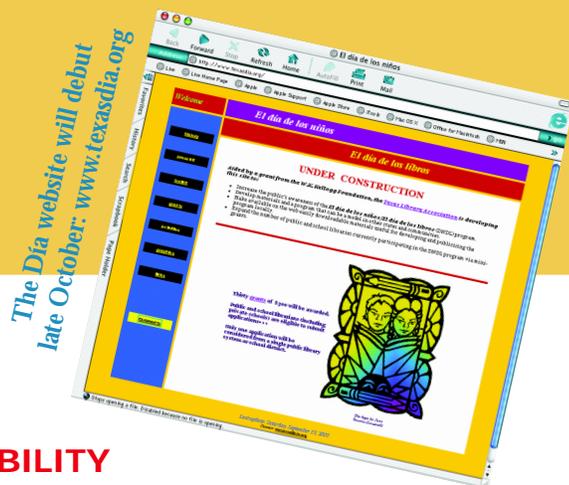
April 30, a traditional day for celebrating children in Latin American countries, was selected to begin a nationwide effort to observe a special day for promoting literacy for children of all cultural and linguistic backgrounds. El día de los niños/El día de los libros (DNDL) focuses on strengthening the practice of making books and reading an integral part of children's lives.

Libraries across the county have developed unique ways of celebrating this day. In Texas, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, under the project management of Jeanette Larson, developed resources and a Web presence to stimulate projects throughout the state. Many libraries, such as the Austin Public Library and El Paso Public Library, have steadily grown their El día de los niños/El día de los libros programs since the event first began.

Now, the Texas Library Association has joined forces with the Kellogg Foundation to increase involvement in El día de los niños/El día de los libros celebrations. The goals of this partnership are to:

- Increase the public's awareness of the El día de los niños/El día de los libros program.
- Develop materials and a program that can be a model in other states and communities.
- Make available on the web easily downloadable materials useful for developing and publicizing the program locally.
- Expand the number of public and school libraries currently participating in El día de los niños/El día de los libros program via mini-grants.

TLA will provide 30 \$300 mini-grants to libraries to help them kick off new El día de los niños/El día de los libros projects or expand existing ones. Suggestions for celebrating the event and model materials will be available off of the DNDL website in late October.



## ELIGIBILITY

Public and school librarians (including those at private schools) are eligible to submit applications, although only one application will be considered from a single public library system or school district.

Libraries may receive funding to create a new program that connects children to literacy (please note that libraries which have hosted El día de los niños/El día de los libros programs in the past five years may apply if they are starting a *new type of program*). Monies will be provided for program materials, labor, supplies, and other costs related to the delivery of El día de los niños/El día de los libros programs. Grant monies *will not* be provided for development of library or classroom collections or for travel by the library or school staff.

Applications will be available on the DNDL website, which will go live in late October. Applications will be due in December, and winners will be notified in January.

## 2003 DNDL Advisory Committee

Rose Treviño, Chair, Houston Public Library  
Anna M. Cruz, San Benito CISD  
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Maribel Garza-Castro, Dept. of Library Services,  
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Patricia Smith, Texas Library Association