



NOW YOU'RE SPEAKING MY LANGUAGE: CREATING A SUCCESSFUL BILINGUAL STORYTIME

**AN INFOPEOPLE WEBINAR
PRESENTED BY ADILENE ROGERS
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Why is it important?

- Promotes second language learning/Strengthens native language
- Fostering cultural sensitivity and awareness
- Recognizing and representing the community
- Creates a welcoming space for new families
- Supports early learning



What is early literacy and how do you support bilingual families?

- What a child needs to learn before they can learn to read and write
- Culturally responsive
- support language learning by providing a language-rich environment with lots of opportunities for children to hear and practice both languages with peers and adults
- Parents are also instrumental in supporting early language development.



Five practices help children get ready to read:



Talking – Hablar



Singing – Cantar



Reading –Leer



Writing – Escribir



Playing – Jugar

Use the language you know best.

I can read.

मैं पढ़ सकता हूँ।

मैं पढ़ सकती हूँ।

Sé leer.

Umiem czytać.

我可以阅读。

Я умею читать

Tôi biết đọc.

나는 읽을 수 있다.

私は読めます

Wax waan aqrin karaa.

હું વાંચી શકું છું.

Nakakabasa ako.

أنا أستطيع القراءة.



What is a Bilingual Storytime

Bilingual One Presenter	Bilingual Two Presenters
Spanish and English presented equally	English presented by one presenter Spanish presented by another presenter

What is NOT a Bilingual Storytime: Culturally Inclusive Storytimes

Sprinkle Storytime One Presenter

English-speaking presenter presents materials that incorporate sprinkling of words in another non-English language

What to include in a bilingual storytime

- Books
- Songs & Active Movements
- Rhymes
- Fingerplays
- Felts
- Be Culturally Inclusive
- DO NOT JUST TRANSLATE YOUR ENGLISH STORYTIME!



Preparation

- Rehearse with your partner ahead of time.
- Storytime space is inviting, family friendly, and set up to foster participation





Delivery

- Introduce yourselves and give behavior expectations at beginning
- Enthusiastic, confident, and engaging
- Let families know that you do not have to speak Spanish to enjoy the program



You don't have to know Spanish to have fun!



Engagement and Interaction

- Bienvenidos a todos
- Program encourages audience involvement
- Circulates and interacts with families

Family Storytime Structure

- Books of varying lengths, but try and keep them on the shorter side.
- Various activities that can be done by multiple ages
- Movement songs in English and Spanish, but especially Spanish
- Traditional songs in the language you choose
- Recommend having a Stay & Play afterwards for families to interact with each other.

Book Selection

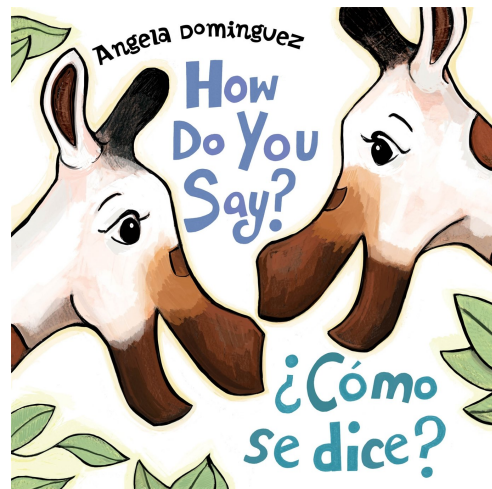
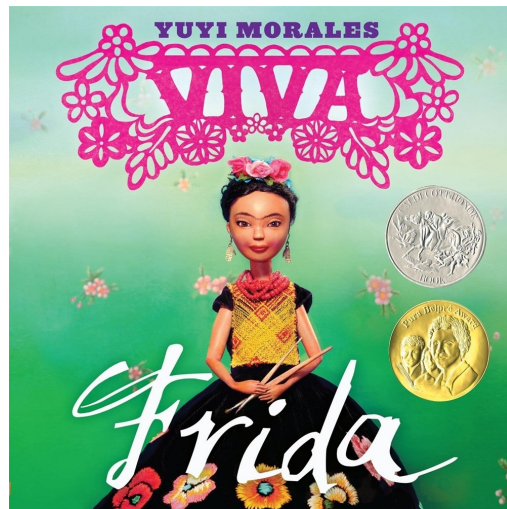
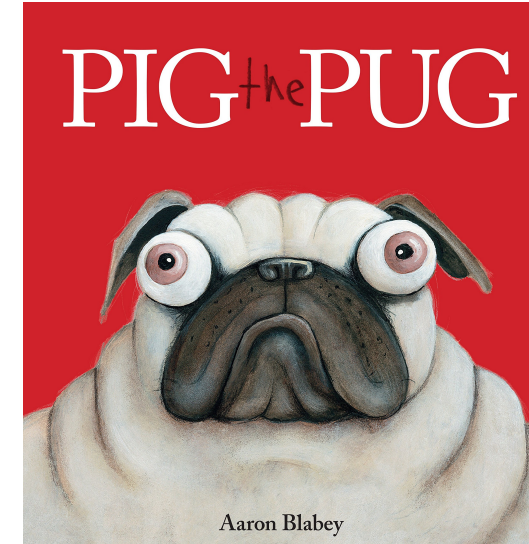
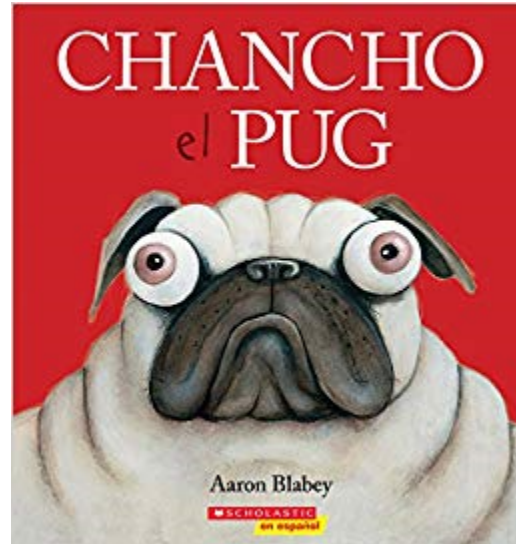
- Be hypercritical
- Translations are okay, but try and get books originally written in the language you are presenting.
- Not all translations are great or easy to read aloud. Look them over before you read them
- Spanish books are sometimes LONG so pay attention to length.
- Your favorite English books may not translate well into Spanish

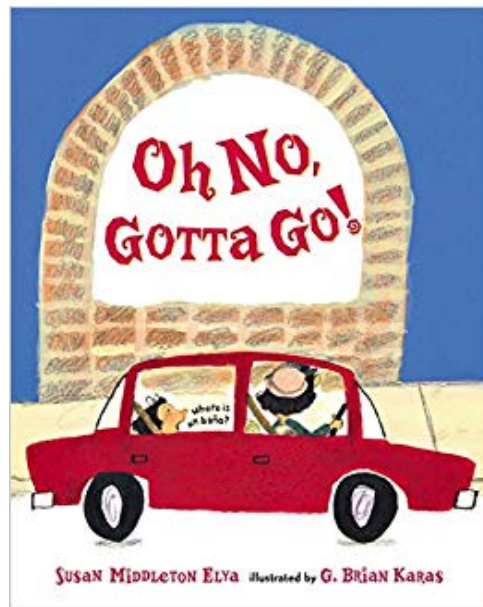
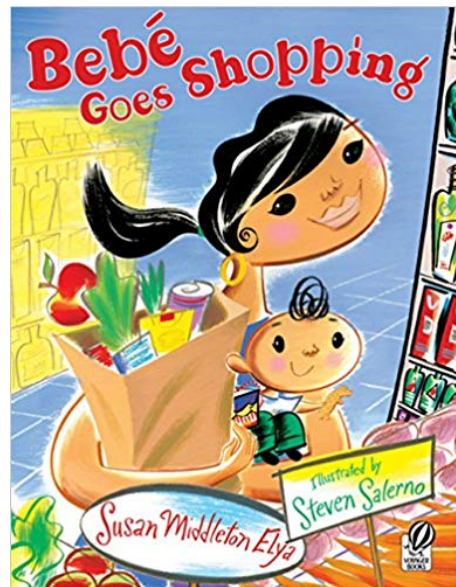
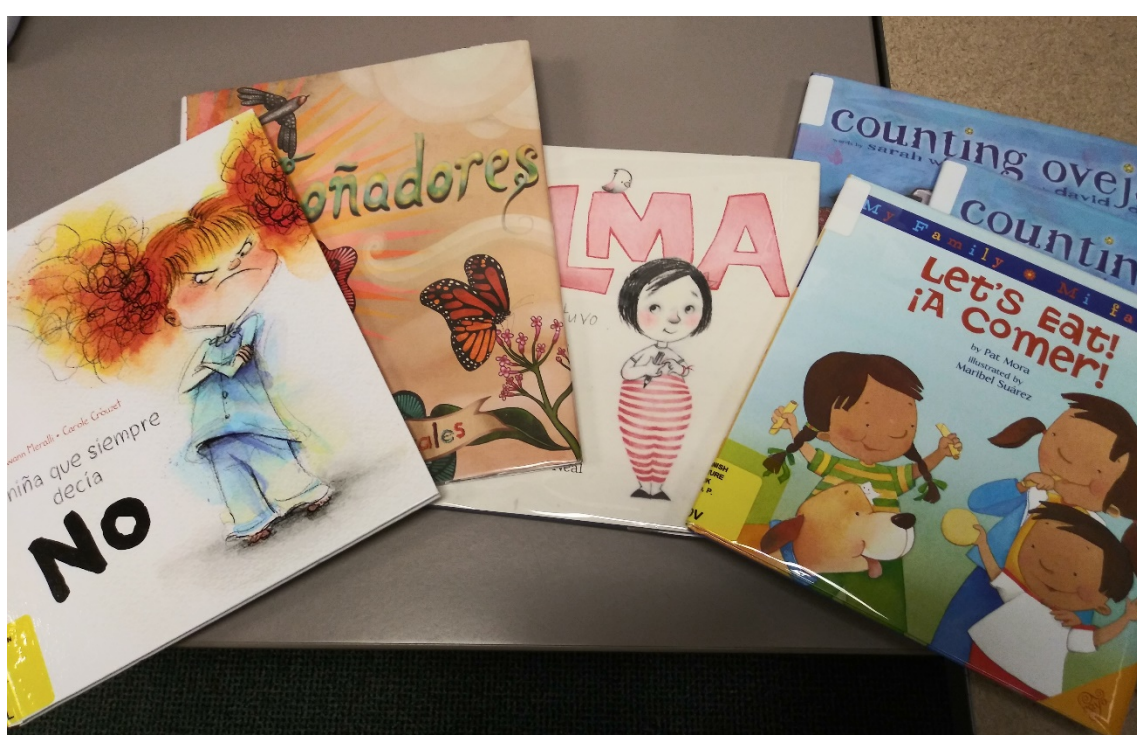
How do two people read the story?

- Both presenters should have a copy of the book, if possible.
- Read both pages of the book at a time
- Bilingual books are a little easier to read.
- If the book is only in Spanish, you can translate beforehand. It doesn't have to be an exact translation and if your audience is primarily Spanish speakers it may not even be necessary to translate.



Book Selection





Authors of note

- **Pat Mora**
- Rocio Bonilla
- **Angela Dominguez**
- **Yuyi Morales**
- Susan Middleton Elya
- Juana Martinez-Neal
- Carmen Tafolla
- Lil Libros Series



Music, fingerplays and rhymes

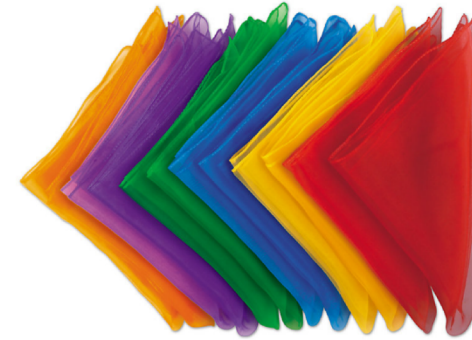
- Utilize classic and/or familiar songs and rhymes that adults may know. This helps share their culture with their children. Try asking your community for recommendations and ask how to use them appropriately.
- Spanish isn't all the same. If possible, mention the native country where the fingerplay/song originated from.
- If you mess up, it's okay.
- Some traditional rhymes don't hold up! Ask your bilingual partner for guidance. When in doubt, choose another rhyme/ song.



Popular Spanish Children's Music Artist

- 123 Andres
- Canta Maestra
- Jose Luis Orozco
- Lucky Diaz and the Family Band

Items you could use....





- Arriba
 - Abajo
 - Adentro
 - Afuera
-
- Song of your choice
 - Talk about colores

Things to keep in mind

- **Linguistic insecurity:** Lack of confidence speaking their own language.
- **Code-switching:** Code switching is when a speaker alternates between two or more languages (or dialects or varieties of language) in one conversation.
- **Parental Involvement:** How involved are parents in the bilingual upbringing of their children?
- **Myths about bilingual education:**
 - My kid will fall behind
 - His English will suffer
 - My Spanish isn't good enough

Few more things...

- This is not a Spanish class
- You are not a teacher
- Translations aren't always perfect. Paraphrasing is okay.
- Practice cultural humility

Sample Agenda

Hello Song

Movement Song

Rhyme

Transition song/movement

Book 1

Movement song/rhyme

Felt story

Book 2

Fingerplay

Goodbye Song

Buenos Días

Popcorn Kernels- Scarves

Tortillitas

Everybody take a seat

Book 1

Bate bate chocolate

Mi Casita

Book 2

La araña pequeñita

Adios Amigos

Let's practice saying good morning- Jose Luis Orozco

Using call and response

Buenos días,

¿Cómo estás?,

Muy bien, gracias,

¿Y usted?

Buenos Días, Amiguitos

(Good Morning, Little Friends)

Buenos días, Amiguitos ¿Cómo están?

¡Muy Bien!

Buenos días, Amiguitos ¿Cómo están?

¡Muy Bien!

Buenos días, Amiguitos

Buenos días, Amiguitos

Buenos días, Amiguitos ¿Cómo están?

¡Muy Bien!

Tortillitas

Tortillitas para mamá

Tortillitas para papá

Las calientitas para mamá

Las doraditas para papá



Los Pollitos Dicen

Los pollitos dicen

“Pío, pío, pío”

Cuando tienen hambre

Cuando tienen frío.

La mamá les busca

El maíz y el trigo,

Les da la comida

Y les presta abrigo.

Bajo sus dos alas,

Acurrucaditos,

Hasta el otro día,

Duermen los pollitos.

Martinillo

Martinillo,

Martinillo,

¿dónde estás?

¿dónde estás?

toca la campana,

toca la campana,

din, don, dan,

din, don, dan.

Where to find more songs/fingerplays

- <https://www.storyblocks.org/>
- <https://jbrary.com/bilingual-storytime-resources/>
- <https://www.mamalisa.com/?t=hube>
- <https://www.bpl.bc.ca/kids/embracing-diversity/songs-and-rhymes/spanish>
- <https://www.reforma.org/>
- www.thelatinxlibrarian.blog

Questions?

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