

BOCA BETH Presents National Hispanic Heritage Month Bilingual Activities For Children

Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month with **BOCA BETH Language Learning Series Activities September 15, 2007 to October 15, 2007**

National Hispanic Heritage Month has been celebrated for 39 years on September 17, 2007. Enacted into law on that day in 1968, Public Law 90-498 set aside a week to honor our Spanish-speaking citizens. When the 100th Congress enacted Public Law 100-402, the celebration period increased to 31 days, from September 15, 2007 to October 15.

The initiative for National Hispanic Heritage Month is an acknowledgement of the over 44.3 million Americans of Hispanic origin, over 15% of our population. The 31 day observation period honors the Independence Day for many Latin American countries including El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Honduras which celebrate September 15 as their Independence Day. September 16th is Mexico's Independence Day, September 18th for Chile, September 21st for Belize and El Dia de la Raza (Columbus Day) is October 12th.

The Spanish Language is an integral part of family life and 32.2 million families speak Spanish in the home and Texas leads the nation with 29% of residents speaking Spanish at home. Twenty-two states now report that their largest minority group is Hispanic: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming

The **BOCA BETH** Language Learning Series makes learning Spanish fun and easy for children ages 0 to 10 and of course their care givers. National Hispanic Heritage Month is the perfect opportunity to introduce children to the language and culture that surrounds them every day in their homes, pre-school, daycare and elementary school setting. Research shows that children who learn a second language, even before they have mastered their own are better readers, which puts them on the path of academic success.

With the **BOCA BETH** Educator Club, everyone becomes a teacher with these simple and fun activities created by Educator, Beth Butler. Whether you are leading children in song, dance or arts and crafts, everyone is guaranteed to have a great time and learn a little Spanish too.

For National Hispanic Heritage Month, **BOCA BETH** recommends the following 4 activities that will bring the message of understanding, unity and commonality as all ethnic groups raise their voices in song and fun.

- Food : Cooking is a social time in Latin American Families: These Quesadillas are easy to make and eat

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Activities Continued:

- **Fitness:** With Fitness Fun with Bilingual Beats, **BOCA BETH** engages children in learning 20 body parts in Spanish/English in a Follow-the-Leader format
- **Counting:** This Language activity comes to life as the children create their own bilingual number book while singing Me gusta contar / I Like to Count
- **Culture:** Children learn about Maracas, an instrument from our Hispanic friends. In this activity the children make their own Maracas and celebrate to music.

All **BOCA BETH** Activity Sheets for National Hispanic Heritage Month come with easy to follow directions to bring the Hispanic language and culture to life for children everywhere. Visit <http://bocabeth.com/media/special.asp> for music to accompany the activities.

The **BOCA BETH Program** teaches Spanish and English to the very young child and continues through the grade school years. It engages every age child with puppet fun, music, movement and creativity. No more sitting with headsets on! No more conjugating verbs! Your child will love to learn a second language with the **BOCA BETH Program**.

BETH BUTLER:

Creator of The BOCA BETH Language Learning Series.



Beth Butler is a bilingual educator of young children and strives to create better communication within our increasingly diverse society. She is the creator of the internationally acclaimed **BOCA BETH** language learning series. The **BOCA BETH Program** and its fun and easy-to-use bilingual products were recently awarded *Learning Magazine 2007 Teachers' Choice Award for the Family, Best Educational Product of the Year (2005) –Parent to Parent/Adding Wisdom Award* and has been listed on the US Department of Education's linked site OELA (Office of English Language Acquisition) as a great resource for helping young children learn a second language.

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Ms. Butler spent over 10 years in preschool and elementary school classrooms, lived in Chile and Mexico and has written and recorded three bilingual music CDs in Spanish and English, produced two bilingual educational movies, published a fun coloring/activity book in both languages and speaks nationally with parents and educators – encouraging second language fun.

Heard on CNN en Español Radio and Univision out of CA, featured in Scholastic/Instructor Magazine, Learning Magazine, Parenting Magazine, The Dallas Morning News, Latina Style and quoted by the Associated Press, Ms. Butler shares her passion for second language learning with thousands of families.

As a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Head Start, National Association for Family Child Care and other professional organizations that share in the development of today's youth, Beth Butler shares her passion for second language instruction with children, parents and educators via interactive children's concerts, keynotes and workshops. To sample this fun, integrated bilingual product line for free visit bocabeth.com



The **BOCA BETH** Sombrero Set is available for \$89.99 at www.bocabeth.com

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Family Fun Is Cooking

Quesadillas are Spanish and Southwest in origin. The ones we experience in restaurants here in the U.S. are fine but are not true depictions of how the real Mexican quesadillas are made. Quesadillas in Mexico can be found outside movie theaters, stadiums, special events with the most popular quesadilla being made with potatoes, cheese, chorizo, beans, green peppers (rajas) and other ingredients.

Following is a simple recipe for quesadillas that allows you to easily involve your children in their preparation. Cooking is a social time in most Latin American countries – make it a social time with your family too!

Quesadillas

Ingredients:

3 six-inch flour tortillas
Vegetable cooking oil
2 cups shredded Colby/Jack mixed cheese
½ cup finely chopped tomato
Cilantro

Directions:

Lightly fry each tortilla in 1 tablespoon vegetable oil until crisp and golden, turning once. Sprinkle with combined cheeses and top with tomato. Put lid on pan and turn heat to low. When cheese is melted, fold tortilla in half. Cut each tortilla into quarters. Garnish with chopped cilantro. Serve warm with salsa if desired.

Yield: 3 servings

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Fitness Fun with Bilingual Beats

We read the statistics on obesity among our young children here in the United States. We realize the many benefits derived from learning a second language during our early years.

Boca Beth puts the two together for an interactive, upbeat fitness activity that brings Spanish to life just in time for Hispanic Heritage month. Grab the download of *Movin' and Groovin'* from the CD *Sing Along with Boca Beth* and get those fingers/dedos wiggling and leg/piernas running!

This activity appeals to kinesthetic, auditory and visual learners as it encourages learning 20 body parts in both Spanish and English while following the prompts of the song. Use an older child to be the 'leader,' and watch the young ones delight in their grasp of a new language.

Twenty fun body part directions are given in Spanish and English – representing a true bilingual format. This fitness fun song uses a follow-the-leader format.

The chorus is acted out with the children rolling their hands then pointing out with the left thumb on one downbeat, then with the right on the next and back and again. When the group sings 'move and groove with me' the leader instructs the children to shake their shoulders and point at themselves on the 'me' part (with the leader reminding the children that they are very special/muy especial).

Request that the children follow the leaders' directions for what to do as each body part is sung about – one action at a time. At the end of the song the children are told they will be estrellas/stars in the Boca Beth music video as they throw their hands, outstretched above their heads for the final beat!

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Counting: Language Activity for Hispanic Heritage Month

The children will make a book/un libro that helps them learn the Spanish words for the numbers one/uno to ten/diez. Reinforcement is the key to all learning so a MP3 version of Boca Beth's "Me gusta contar / I Like to Count" song is available for download.

Materials needed:

- ✚ Depending upon the ages of the children you might offer pre-made blank books out of brightly colored construction paper that measures a finished book size of 5" x 7" (a total of six pages stapled or bound together is needed for this activity). If the children are old enough they can participate in the making of the blank book first.
- ✚ Markers, crayons, magazine pictures or newspaper food ad pictures, age appropriate scissors, glue sticks

Procedure:

- ✚ Guide the child in making a cute front and back cover for this bilingual number book. "My Book of Numbers/Mi libro de numeros" is one suggestion.
- ✚ Each page should have the numeral (1), the English word (one), and the Spanish word (uno) for the number you are working on.
- ✚ Assist the child in finding a picture that depicts the number of a certain item (one banana, two dogs, three pencils and so on*). Glue the picture onto the page that corresponds to that number.
- ✚ The English-language number words in sequence order are one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, and ten while the Spanish-language number words in order are uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco, seis, siete, ocho, nueve, and diez.

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Arts & Crafts Create Culture Fun

Maracas help celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and the culture and music of Spanish-speaking countries. Using old cardboard tubes, jelly jars, plastic soda bottles (anything that you can put a lid on and shake!) makes this project inexpensive and fun! Find different materials and different sized containers to create a wide range of musical sounds that will allow the children to create their own band!

This activity is suitable for toddlers, preschoolers and elementary aged children (with adult supervision). And what child doesn't love singing the *Happy Birthday/Feliz cumpleaños* song with cha-cha-cha's sprinkled throughout?!?! Download our Boca Beth version of this children's favorite song – presented in a fun bilingual format!

Materials needed:

- ✚ Containers with tops/lids to hold dried beans or rice in. (jelly jars, plastic soda bottles, cardboard tubes with paper glued on as 'lid')
- ✚ Dried beans, rice, small shell pasta
- ✚ Construction paper or white computer paper
- ✚ Paints, markers, glitter, glue, Spanish/Mexican theme stickers

Procedure:

- ✚ Allow each child to choose their own 'maraca' container and filler.
- ✚ For soda bottles you can insert a cardboard tube that has been cut and wound tightly to fit into the top of the bottle in order to create a handle. Secure the top to the handle with quality masking tape.
- ✚ Pour approximately 20 dried beans, grains of rice or pasta shells into the container (amount based on size of container and filler chosen).
- ✚ Secure the lid back onto the container. If no lid is available, make one with paper and secure tightly with quality masking tape or transparent packing tape.
- ✚ Wrap paper around the container as desired for decorating purposes. Some children may simply want to decorate the container with stickers. Encourage the children to customize their maraca with markers, glitter, stickers and imagination.