

Celebrate

International Mother Language Day

Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016



Join the Office of Head Start in celebrating International Mother Language Day!

Head Start and Early Head Start programs are committed to affirming the culture, language, and lifeways of all children. International Mother Language Day provides a chance to celebrate diversity, increase understanding, and engage in dialogue. Quality language education can equip learners with the language skills they need to contribute to society. It also can help create a more peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable world. Language education offers a framework for transmitting values and knowledge. It strengthens a sense of belonging to local and global communities, which is key to fostering understanding, cooperation, and engagement.

What Is It?

Sponsored by the United Nations, International Mother Language Day honors the 6,000 languages spoken around the world. It's a great time to celebrate, speak, and learn our mother and home languages.



Head Start programs can lead local efforts to share the value, importance, and joy of all languages! About one third of the children in Head Start and Early Head Start are dual language learners (DLLs), and more than 140 languages are spoken. Supporting a young DLL's mother language—also called home language—is key to their success in school and life.

Why Celebrate?

Multilingualism is a living resource (Bokova, 2012). Language communicates and transfers knowledge from each generation to the next, thereby ensuring a sustainable future.

*To learn more about cultural and linguistic responsiveness and
International Mother Language Day, visit www.eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov.*