

Celebrate!

# United Nations' International Mother Language Day

*Learning in a language they can understand is vital for children to enjoy their right to quality education. Mother Tongue and Multilingual Education are key to reducing discrimination, promoting inclusion and improving learning outcomes for all. —UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova*

February 21, 2013



**Join the Office of Head Start and the National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness** and celebrate International Mother Language Day on February 21!

**What is it?** Mother Language Day, sponsored by the United Nations, promotes linguistic diversity and multilingual education because fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions promote understanding, tolerance, and dialogue.

**Why celebrate?** Every human's mother/heritage/home language is precious and an important part of his/her cultural heritage and the identity of the community.

### **How can children participate?**

- \* Have children help create banners and posters commemorating the day.
- \* Help children create a graph of the languages spoken in their classroom or home-based group.
- \* Teach children to say "hello" in all the languages in their classroom or home-based group.
- \* Teach children a simple song in each of the languages spoken in your classroom or home-based group.
- \* Sing or play recorded songs and lullabies to babies and toddlers in the different language spoken in your program.
- \* Ask children to share stories, songs, and rhymes in their mother/heritage/home language (including English) and record them for the children to take home.
- \* Read or tell stories to teach words or simple phrases in the different languages spoken in the classroom, such as animal names.

