

Pointers For Parents

Creative, Kid-Friendly Approach To Sharing Heritage

(NAPSA)—In many ways, one of the most useful tools a parent can provide is the working knowledge of another language, even if the language is not a traditional part of the family's heritage. In particular, Spanish is increasingly important because it is now the second-most prevailing language spoken in the United States.

When it comes to teaching language skills, educators agree: Start early and be creative.

One fun way to expose children to the Spanish language and Hispanic culture is through a colorful collection of dolls from the Baby Abuelita company. These lovable characters sing traditional Spanish lullabies, melodic tunes that easily get the attention of children (and adults). And because the songs are easy to follow, the dolls effectively keep minds entertained and actively engaged in absorbing new Spanish words.

"Children are naturally attracted to rhymes and music," said psychotherapist Carol Fenster. "The dolls help parents mix fun with education. As your kids start singing along, you realize they are learning Spanish words and getting exposed to a beautiful side of Latino culture."

Educators are embracing the dolls, bringing them into classrooms as part of clever naming games and creative role-playing activities to help teach Spanish vocabulary skills. Parents can keep the lessons going at home by starting with



Through the use of traditional melodies, parents can help foster an appreciation of Spanish culture and language.

basic words from the songs and build up to complete sentences.

The cheerful dolls are also effective "models" for pointing out the various Spanish words for family members, body parts and articles of clothing.

The company's products have been embraced by Hispanic families because they sing traditional songs that bring back cherished memories and help convey the culture to the next generation. The growing product line is distributed nationally through major retailers and online at www.babyabuelita.com. The collection features three dolls: Abuelita Rosa, Abuelito Pancho and Baby Andrea. Each sings a different group of songs in a voice reflective of the doll's character, all at the press of its hand.