

Niño Wrestles the World

The 2014 CLEL Bell Award Book for PLAY

by Yuyi Morales
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Niño takes on all the toys in his room with an amazing series of lucha libre wrestling moves. When his sisters wake up from their nap, they challenge him to a match, too! Who will be victorious? *Niño Wrestles the World* joyfully demonstrates the language-rich, open-ended play that contributes to a child's narrative skills.

Activity Ideas for *Niño Wrestles the World*:

- After you read the book to the children a few times, go back and notice that there are words all over the book, and name those parts of the book for the children: the cover, the spine, the end papers, and the book jacket flaps. Knowing the parts of books helps children become comfortable with books and reading.
- Make lucha libre-style "trading cards" with the children. Have them draw themselves as wrestlers, or take photos of them in "champion" poses and print them out. Make up wrestling names for each child, such as "Amazing Ahmed," or "Strong Stephanie," and write them down on the pictures in front of the children, saying each letter out loud as you write. The letters of their names are important to children, and are often the first letters they learn.
- Talk about how some of the words in *Niño Wrestles the World* are in Spanish and some are in English. Are there children in your group with other primary languages? Ask them to share their words for some of the objects and actions in the book, such as: *sisters, tickle, head, puzzle, popsicle*. What sounds are the same in the different languages? What sounds are different? Learning to hear that words are made up of separate sounds is an important pre-reading skill.
- Create wrestling personalities for familiar toys or storytime puppets, and have the children describe what costumes they would wear and what moves they would make. What would happen if two toys wrestled each other? Who would win? Being able to describe events and tell stories helps children understand the stories they read.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org/content/bell-awards>



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