



# ESTRELLITA NEWSLETTER

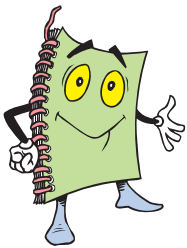
VOLUME 1

December 2004



## NOTES FROM KAREN

I'd like to welcome all of you to Estrellita's first official newsletter. I hope the school year has gotten off to a great start for all of you!



Lots of exciting things have been happening with Estrellita over the past several years! This newsletter will serve to fill you in on all the news.

I will periodically email you a newsletter with information about Estrellita, upcoming inservices, tips for using the program and other useful information. If you know of anyone else who might like to receive this newsletter, please forward it to them.

I know that many of you have been loyal Estrellita customers. I would like to thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for Estrellita. A good program becomes an exemplary program in the hands of a skilled teacher. Keep up the great work!

Karen Myer, Author of *Estrellita*

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## TEXAS ADOPTION

In 1999, Estrellita was adopted in Texas and is on their official state-adopted list for Kindergarten reading programs:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/textbooks/publishers/99publishers2.html>

We are proud that Texas, a state with very high academic standards, has chosen Estrellita to be worthy of state adoption!

## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND & READING FIRST

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, which President Bush signed into law on January 8, 2002 requires that schools invest in educational practices that work—that research evidence has shown to be effective in improving student performance. As part of the No Child Left



Behind Act of 2001, President Bush put forward a new comprehensive effort called Reading First. This was a \$900 million state grant program which promotes the use of scientifically based research to provide high-quality reading instruction for grades K-3, in order to help every student in every state to become a successful reader.

According to information on the Department of Education's website, "No Child Left Behind requires that Reading First support those programs that teach children five skills (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension). These skills have been shown to be critical to early reading success through years of scientifically based research on the practice of reading instruction. In April 2000, these research findings were reported in the congressionally mandated National Reading Panel report; they have now been written into the new law."

<http://www.ed.gov/nclb/methods/whatworks/doing.html#2>

Estrellita is a supplemental, phonics-based program. As such, it's strength lies in its all-inclusive, explicit, systematic approach to three of the five areas listed above: phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency. Estrellita touches on vocabulary and comprehension, but it's primary focus is phonemic awareness, phonics and fluency.

As part of the former Reading Excellence Act and the current Reading First Act, the State of Washington's Department of Education assembled a panel of reading experts to look at reading material to determine if the various programs adhere to reading research. Estrellita passed the rigorous screening by Washington's panel of reading experts and was chosen as a supplementary program for phonics intervention. As such, *Washington school districts who have applied for Reading First grants may use their grant money to purchase Estrellita.*



**NEW MATERIAL!**



It's been just a little over two years now that Estrellita published its new material. Some of you may not be aware of these new additions. Each new item is outlined below.

### 1. Complete Prekindergarten Program

Estrellita now has a prekindergarten program designed specifically for 3 and 4 year olds! It is based on the same Estrellita methodology as the K-1 program, but includes more phonemic awareness and hands-on activities and the pacing has been adjusted for this age level.

### 2. Supplemental Games & Activities

These versatile, fun-filled games and activities provide hands-on practice with the Sonidos Iniciales and Blending components of both the K-1 and PreK programs. They can be used in a whole class setting, small groups or in centers. They are included as part of the PreK program. For grades K-1, they are available as a separate component.

### 3. Big Books

The standard Estrellita mini-books (i.e. "Papá, Mamá y Ana") are now available as illustrated Big Books. They can be used to introduce each new story to your students.

### 4. Parent Packets in English for Two-Way Dual Immersion Programs

Due to a number of requests from our loyal customers, we have translated the Parent Packets into English (parent instruction portions) so that the English-only parents of children in dual immersion classrooms will

be able to help their children do the work in these packets.

### 5. PreK Palabras Cards

These are color-coded cards for every word (180 words) in the five Palabras books in the PreK Program. Syllables are alternately color-coded black and red.



**CONSUMMABLES**



We are currently working on sets of consummables for the "Phonemic Awareness Homework Booklets" from the *Games & Activities* component. Schools and/or districts will be able to order these in class sets of 25 or 35. This will cut down considerably on the amount of copying that teachers have to do. If these prove to be popular, Estrellita will produce consummables of other blackline masters.

### TIP OF THE DAY



#### "Student of the Week" Activity for K-1

The *Estrellita Writing Guide* (K-1 program) is often overlooked but has many good ideas and strategies for developing children's writing abilities. You will find that the "Student of the Week" activity (pgs. 56-58) covers many diverse skills, such as public speaking, listening skills, sight vocabulary, building of self-esteem and building a sense of community within the classroom. Be sure to read these three pages in the *Estrellita Writing Guide* and begin implementing this strategy right away! You will find this activity to be one which you and your children will love!

### TIP OF THE DAY FROM OUR TEACHERS

*Estrellita thanks Yolanda Lucero, Bilingual Kindergarten Teacher, Madera USD, for developing and sharing this great game!*



#### "Guess the Picture Game"

You will need the "Estrellita Pictures" from the "Estrellita Pictures and Letters" blackline masters from the *Games &*

*Activities* component. Make two cardstock copies of the pictures. Place one set of cards on the table face up with the pictures showing. The teacher holds the other set and gives a description of the first card without showing the picture to the children. (Example: *Mi dibujo es algo que se come, es redondo, viene en racimos. ¿Qué es?*) The child who guesses the correct picture can choose the card he or she guesses and keep it during the game. The child who has the most cards wins the game and gets to be the teacher. The game can be played indefinitely. Suggestion: Model the activity first in several small group sessions. Then, ask the children to “be the teacher.”

If you have any Estrellita activities that you would like to share for our “Tip of the Day” column, please email them to [karenm@estrellita.com](mailto:karenm@estrellita.com). We will review them for inclusion in a future newsletter.

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## WHAT WE'RE HEARING...

“Estrellita has really made a difference to a lot of students. I’ve seen so many successes with it. A Spanish-speaking student who had been placed in an English-only classroom subsequently qualified for Special Ed. I used Estrellita with him and he learned how to read. When his father heard him read at home, he actually cried! My Special Ed kids become honor students when they go into the regular classes.”



*Gloria Mason, Bilingual Special Ed Teacher  
Clark County School District*

”In all my years of teaching PreK, I have never had students who finished the year reading. After using the new Estrellita Prekindergarten program last year, my children left PreK reading complete sentences. The kindergarten teachers were amazed!”

*Norma Solís, Prekindergarten Teacher  
El Paso ISD*

To our teachers: if you have a quote for Estrellita or a success story that you would like to share with us, please submit it to [karenm@estrellita.com](mailto:karenm@estrellita.com). We will review them for inclusion in a future newsletter.

## UPCOMING INSERVICES

Please check the Estrellita website for a list of current workshops scheduled for Estrellita:

<http://www.estrellita.com/upcoming.html>

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## TO REQUEST A CATALOG

If you do not have a current catalog, please contact us and we will be happy to send you one.

**ESTRELLITA**

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## TO BE ADDED TO THE NEWSLETTER

Please forward this newsletter on to anyone you think might enjoy reading it.

If someone has forwarded this newsletter on to you and you would like to receive it in the future, please send your request to [bobbi@estrellita.com](mailto:bobbi@estrellita.com).

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## REMOVAL FROM NEWSLETTER

We hope you’ve enjoyed receiving this newsletter, however, if you should wish to be removed from our email newsletter list, please reply to this newsletter with the word “REMOVE” in the subject line.



*Happy Holidays*



*from*

*Estrellita!*