

As seen In The

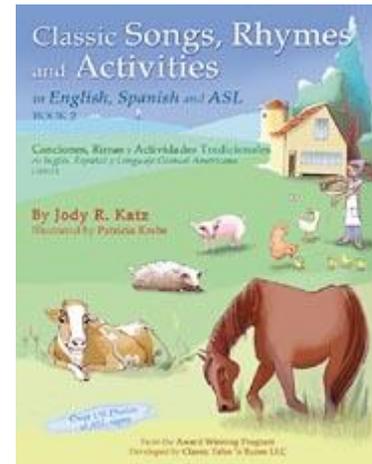


### **Multilingual Book for Young Learners**

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Local educator Jody R. Katz, founder of Classic Tales 'n Tunes LLC, has just released a new book designed to be used by all kinds of young learners, from birth through 8 years of age. "Classic Songs, Rhymes and Activities" invites children to learn about their world through English, Spanish, American Sign Language (ASL) and artwork.

"The concept behind the book is to be as inclusive as possible, to allow all kinds of learners equal access to the same education," Katz said. Each chapter begins with a black-and-white activity page, inviting the reader to find hidden objects, color or add their own creative touch to the image. The pages that follow contain rhymes and lyrics to songs in English and Spanish, with photos of corresponding ASL signs, and colorful illustrations with clues to the text.



Selections in the book are drawn from the Classic Tales 'n Tunes curriculum, an integrated arts program for young children offered in preschools and community centers in Northern Virginia. "When I first began teaching, I didn't know Spanish or American Sign Language," Katz said. "But it quickly became apparent how important it was for me to learn these languages because we live in a diverse community and there were many who had language barriers preventing them from participating fully. Once I started using the languages in class, these students and their caregivers began participating and other students were able to understand them too. It was a win-win-win situation."

Patricia Krebs, an internationally renowned artist from Argentina, collaborated with Katz on the book.

Spanish and ASL are the second and third most common languages in the USA. ASL is used by many people who aren't deaf and especially children. Some with speech disorders or delays, Down syndrome, autism and many other special situations rely on ASL to communicate.

Classic Tales 'n Tunes LLC received the Fairfax County Human Rights Award last year for providing "a uniquely inclusive educational program." The innovative curriculum for Classic Tales 'n Tunes includes instruction in English, Spanish and American Sign Language, enabling those who communicate in any of the nation's three most common languages to learn together in the same classroom. At the same time, a combination of stories, music and movement are used to engage students with differing learning styles — visual, auditory or kinesthetic.

### **More Information**

Classic Tales 'n Tunes LLC was created in 2002 by Jody R. Katz and now provides classes in Fairfax County, Arlington County, the City of Falls Church and the Town of Vienna. The book can be purchased at [www.classictnt.com/Shop.shtml](http://www.classictnt.com/Shop.shtml). For more information, go to [www.classictnt.com](http://www.classictnt.com) or e-mail [info@classictnt.com](mailto:info@classictnt.com).