



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**PROJECT  
CORNERSTONE**  
A YMCA of Silicon Valley Initiative

May

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Today in your child's classroom, I read the book ***Playing Lotería*** by Renè Colato Lainez. The young boy in the story visits his grandmother in Mexico and is worried about not being able to communicate with her. His grandmother only speaks Spanish and he is not used to speaking Spanish. Together they teach each other their native language in a very fun way, playing the lotería game!

**This month's dicho:** "It is never too late to learn."

**About Lotería:** The lotería board game originated in Italy in the 1400s and was brought to Mexico in 1769 where for a time it was played almost exclusively by the colonial upper class. During the Mexican War of Independence (1810-1821), it became a common pastime with the soldiers. As they returned home after the war, the game's popularity spread throughout Mexico. Eventually lotería became an essential part of traveling Mexican fairs. This tradition continues today, and since the late 1800s lotería has been played extensively by Mexican families in their homes.

**This month's classroom activity:** Students played lotería. Lotería is basically played like bingo. The main differences are that with lotería there is no "free" space, and instead of calling numbers the names of the pictures on the cards are called. Lotería might not be a common board game in all of the cultures, but one thing that's true is that we all play board games and have fun doing it. It is also a great method to learn a different language.

**Ideas to reinforce the message at home:**

- Have a family fun night and play loteria.
- Communicate in a second language as a family if you can or agree to learn a different language.
- Talk about a time when you had to learn something.

If you would like more information about our Los Dichos program or are interested in becoming a volunteer reader please contact me or visit [www.projectcornerstone.org](http://www.projectcornerstone.org).

Sincerely,

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Los Dichos Lead(s)

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Telephone/Email