

# Storytelling Math

**Principal Investigator:** Marlene Kliman

**Funders:** The Heising-Simons Foundation

**Other current TERC staff:** Audrey Martinez-Gudapakkam, Valerie Martin

**Dates:** 2016–2020

The *Storytelling Math* project is centered on two interrelated goals:

- Expand the mathematical content in trade storybooks for ages 0–5 to include often-overlooked topics that are critical to building mathematical understanding, including patterns, spatial relationships, measurement, logic, and mathematical vocabulary;
- Expand images and contexts of characters in such books, to reflect families from traditionally under-represented groups and give all readers an inclusive vision of mathematical thinkers.

Current work involves:

- Collaborating with publisher Charlesbridge to develop, publish, and promote two sets of mathematical storybooks (four books for ages 0-2 and four for ages 3-6) for the trade market;
- Conducting workshops, webinars, and outreach to stakeholders including trade storybook authors and book selectors for literacy organizations, public libraries, and book reviews;
- Distributing books published as a result of our partnerships via literacy non-profits Reach Out and Read and Too Small To Fail.

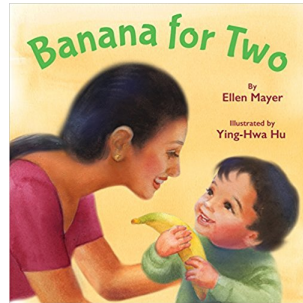
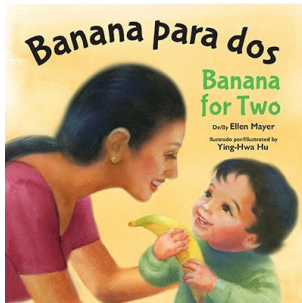
With conservative projections of 64,500 math-infused storybooks purchased by project end and at least 350 stakeholders participating in webinars and workshops, we anticipate that our efforts will help to re-shape national conceptions of what constitutes math for ages 0-5, who can do math, and ways in which parents and caregivers can organically support children's math learning as part of story reading at home.

## Published books resulting from Storytelling Math efforts to date

*Banana for Two* by Ellen Mayer

Star Bright Books, 2018, available in English and Spanish

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