

Children's Spanish Resources

Where to start?

Go to your local library and ask the children's librarian to show you the section of Spanish materials for kids. You can find books, music and computer programs.



Be Prepared for the inevitable, "How do you say...?" questions...

- ▶ **a Spanish/English dictionary**
- ▶ **a translation app on your smart phone** - I like Google Translate
- ▶ **a translation website** - such as SpanishDict.com, FreeTranslation.com or Google Translate- just type in a word or phrase in English, and click on which language you want it to translate it into for you. They can even pronounce it for you!

Music CD's:

Music is a great way to easily incorporate Spanish into your lives. Play it in your vehicle while you drive. Play it at home during play time. Many of the CD's listed below are available with books of lyrics so you can follow along and lead the children.

I love any CD's by **José-Luiz Orozco (arcoirisrecords.com)**... and he has made lots of them! I love this man's music because it exposes the kids an authentic Mexican accent, the songs are fun, educational and cultural. Here are two I use in class most often.

- **Diez Deditos** - 10 Little Fingers
- **Vol. 5 – Letras, Numeros, Colores** (letters, numbers, colors)

I also really like these **Sarah Barchas** CD's. (**High Haven Music**) because they are so fun and lively! Some songs may be a bit too fast for some.

- **iTodos, Listos, Canten!** (Ready, Set, Sing)
- **Piñata and More!** (this one is better for elementary school age)



A new favorite of mine... **Risas y sonrisas** (Laughter and Smiles) by **Leticia Smith**. This can be found at **www.spanishforkids.com**.

- **Risas y sonrisas** (Laughter and Smiles)

Twin Sisters Productions' CD is simply called **Spanish**. It is done in both Spanish and English at a slow pace. Covers a lot of basics. A good place to start.

- **Spanish**

The Teach Me Tapes by **Judy Mahoney** are available in many languages. They are done bilingually, using many familiar childhood songs, interspersed with a child talking about her day.

- **Teach Me... Spanish**

Who doesn't like **Sesame Street**? You will hear familiar Sesame Street characters talk and sing lots of fun songs teaching basic vocabulary. By **Sesame Street Records**.

- **Fiesta Songs**

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Books - Many books are available in both English and Spanish. Here are some of my favorites to get you started:

- **Eric Carle** - many of his classics are available in Spanish, like "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?"
- **Gladys Rosa-Mendoza** - a wonderful series of bilingual board books with simple sentences. Include a pronunciation guide at the back. CD's are also available through the memima.com website.
- **Rebecca Emberley** - some good basic picture books with single words and pictures per page
- **Margaret and Margarita** by Lynn Reiser. My all-time favorite about two girls who meet at the park and even though their mothers think they won't be able to talk to each other, they do... starting with "hello" and "hola."
- **Dora the Explorer or Diego** books - popular with the kids who watch the shows, you can find these books written in English with a handful of Spanish words sprinkled throughout the stories.
- **MUZZY** - Great multi-pronged approach, includes video, music, book and computer program. It is expensive to buy, but can be found at the library. My kids love it.
- **Barefoot Books** - great titles like "Bear in a Square"



GAME IDEAS:

Try using Spanish word in place of English in many children's games. To say, "It's your turn" say, "Es tu turno." (ehs too TURN-oh).

- **Candyland, Chutes & Ladders or UNO**- use Spanish number color/number words
- **Duck, Duck, Goose** - use any two Spanish vocabulary words you want to practice in place of "duck" and "goose."
- **¿Qué es?** - Means "What is it?" Pronounced "keh ehs." Point to an item, and ask, "¿Qué es?" Or turn it around and ask, "Es ___?" (Is it ___?) "No, no es ___." (No, it's not a ___.) "¡Sí! Es ___." (Yes! It's a ___.)
- **Flannel Boards** - use Spanish words as you do flannel boards with the children. The Spanish version of the book from the library can guide you.
- **Matching Cards** - using 2 sets of pictures, make a memory/matching game. Kids say the Spanish word as they turn over the card.
- **BINGO** - use Spanish words to identify the pictures in your BINGO games.

ONLINE LEARNING FUN

- **SpanishSpanish.com** - a fun, interactive site to practice and hear basics.
- **apples4theteacher.com/foreignlang.html#spanishgames** - learning games
- **storyplace.org/sp/preschool/other.asp** - a variety of on-line games, grouped by category, for little ones to learn Spanish.
- **spanish4teachers.org** - many resources from ideas to printables.
- **kiddiesgames.com/en/spanish_games.php** - fun, educational games
- NEW! **pbskids.org/games/spanish**. PBS just launched all-new games in Spanish with your kids favorite PBS Kids characters.

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LABEL YOUR HOME. Use post-it notes to write the name in Spanish for various items in your home. It's then there for ready-reference to get you using Spanish words more often.

COMPUTER PROGRAMS:

The gold standard is **Rosetta Stone**, however it's price can be daunting. For preschoolers, I like **JumpStart Spanish**. The libraries recently added a program called **Mango** to try.

VIDEOS:

Here's an easy one... You can watch many DVD's in Spanish by going to the SetUp menu and changing the language to Spanish. Some will offer subtitles in English.

APPS:

You might want to try learning Spanish through apps on your mobile device. Just search "best kids Spanish apps" and you'll find plenty to choose from.

WHERE TO FIND RESOURCES LOCALLY:

I recommend you start with your local **library** (or LinkCat online) to help you find LOTS of resources free! Here are some other places you might like:

- The Learning Shop
- Half Price Books, Frugal Muse or Barnes & Noble
- Amazon.com
- spanish-bookworld.com - Kids' books, audio books, movies, software, mp3s, toys
- Audible.com - downloadable audio programs
- bookslibros.com/SpanishForNinos.htm - resources to help teach kids Spanish



Helping children on their road to being bilingual is a tremendous gift. Have fun with it!

The world awaits.