



Taking a Trip into Spanish

Tips for Teaching Spanish to Your Homeschooler

Have you considered studying a foreign language to enhance your elementary-aged child's education? Or do you hesitate because you just had "a little Spanish" in high school and wonder whether that is enough? Let's look at some reasons for journeying into the study of Spanish and tools that will make the trip as pleasant as possible.

Why Spanish?

Population facts confirm that Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world: there are more than 28 million native Spanish-speaking people in the United States. The Hispanic population is the nation's largest ethnic minority—a mission field coming to us! God desires that people from all languages become part of His kingdom (Rev. 5:9). One of the best ways Christians can demonstrate Christ's love is to communicate with people in their native language.

How Can I Teach Spanish If I Don't Really Know the Language?

Be willing to learn along with your child. Yes, that requires discipline and

a dependence on the God who knows all languages and nationalities and who demonstrates a genuine love for all peoples.

Additionally, implement the *Four Rs of Teaching a Foreign Language*.

- **Rhyme:** Singing in the foreign language is a proven aid to permanent learning, and it provides a method that makes learning fun.
- **Rhythm:** Educational games and total physical response activities that connect the foreign language with other disciplines expand teaching and communication skills.
- **Repetition:** A spiral approach that begins with the familiar and gradually increases the level of difficulty maximizes stimulation and eases the learning process.
- **Rewards:** The joys and benefits of learning a foreign language establish habits that build comprehension skills in all disciplines and broaden the horizon for cultural outreach into communities.

What Tools Are Available for Teaching Elementary Spanish?

BJU Press serves as your travel agent with *PASAPORTE AL ESPAÑOL Kit A*, a brand-new Spanish program for your elementary child.

- The materials are divided into three steps and are designed for two fifteen-minute lessons per week.
- The lessons foster Christian growth through pervasively Christian content and invite children into the joy and rewards of learning Spanish.
- Teaching charts help establish habits that enhance fluency and build comprehension skills while providing appealing practice.
- Country charts with photos of Spanish-speaking countries integrate a wealth of cultural information.
- Weekly worktext pages, including built-in flashcards for vocabulary review and Spanish recipes, encourage family participation in the learning process.
- Christian songs, Bible verses, Bible truths, and prayer teach children that their faith affects all areas of their lives.
- Cultural and fun songs teach and reinforce pronunciation and intonation,

vocabulary, and syntax while promoting meaningful use of Spanish for long-term learning.

- A hand puppet invites increased student participation as Choco the hedgehog learns with your child.
- Read-Aloud books present new words and structures with beautiful illustrations that provide a rich context and inspiration for discussion.
- English translations in the Teacher's Edition and a set of audio CDs (which include music and recordings of native speakers) provide support for the teacher who is not fluent in Spanish.

All set? Passports ready? Join Choco and his friends and take a trip into Spanish! ¡Vamos! 🐾

Michelle Rosier, mother of three and former Christian school teacher, is the coordinating author for BJU Press's PASAPORTE AL ESPAÑOL.

PASAPORTE AL ESPAÑOL Kit A includes

Teacher's Edition for Steps 1–3
Worktext Step 1*
123 Teaching Charts
4 CD Set
16 Read-Aloud Books
Choco Teaching Puppet
Passport Book

*Worktexts Steps 2 & 3
sold separately

