



Spanish Programs for Young Learners

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The MARACAS curriculum is designed to fit easily into any preschool or elementary FLES classroom and with novice learners at higher grade levels. Each module, lesson, and activity is crafted to give the teacher simple guidance and instructional strategies that will engage learners. As the Theory of Multiple Intelligences and Brain Compatible teaching are the central foci of the curriculum structure, each lesson is divided by what I am calling “active learning sections”. These themes will call on the notions and concepts at the heart of the MARACAS philosophy: Make the learning fun and memorable!



HOLA

Each class begins with the special song designed to work as a bookend for the Spanish learning section of their day. Each time students hear this and sing it, they become aware that Spanish thinking and learning time has arrived.



A REVISAR Y DISCUTIR

Review and activate prior knowledge at the beginning of each class. This can take on many forms including songs, drawn responses, and questions and answers from previous lessons. It is a valuable time for assessment and an important time for students to recognize their own learning achievement. By activating prior knowledge, you bolster continued learning.



A EMPEZAR

Verbal/Linguistic activity to introduce and begin the instructional portion of the class using such strategies as repetition, motion, and visual cues. This is your chance to set the tone and the focus for the day's lesson.



A VER

Visual/Spatial activity used to stimulate learners and augment concept understanding. The use of pictures, manipulatives, and even body language makes retention of ideas stronger.



A CANTAR

Musical or rhythmic activity to elevate comprehension. This is a central part of the curriculum and serves as an essential means of retention and recall for the students.



A CREAM

Craft or learning tool development by students for hands-on and tangible learning. Often these crafts serve as an additional bridge between classroom learning and extended learning at home.



A LEER

Children's literature read in Spanish to and/or by the students as a vehicle for reaching objectives and familiarizing them with the sounds of the language. Stories are a great way to strengthen comprehension and enhance learning.



A ACTUAR Y MOVER

Bodily/Kinesthetic activity to further draw on student intelligences and bring themes to life. Movement is a key to engaging young learners and all kinds of learners to reach objectives and build enthusiasm.



A ORGANIZAR

Logical/Mathematical tasks that are specifically designed to support and draw in the learners who are problem solvers and pattern seekers. When students are able to put ideas together in some type of order it gives the learning more meaning.



A JUGAR JUNTOS

Interpersonal activity utilizing the skills, manipulatives, and communication patterns practiced in class. Interaction between students in the target language is a catalyst for dynamic linguistic development.



A DIBUJAR

Visual and Intrapersonal activity done at the end of each class. Each child draws a “página” for what will be a book at the end of the course with individualized visual representations of comprehension.



A EXPLORAR

Naturalist tactile activity that will engage students in interactive experimentation with materials from the natural world.



A UNIR LAS IDEAS

Interpersonal activity in which students gather with you to recall and bring together the ideas taught that day. This is a chance for students to absorb, reflect, and pack a mental suitcase of language to bring home.

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ADIÓS

Each class ends with this special rhythmic song followed by each child receiving a page of ideas to practice at home. This is the bookend to conclude and tie-up all of the language learning from that lesson.

IDEAS PARA PRACTICAR EN CASA

Parent buy-in or involvement is essential for success to be achieved in all aspects of education. This is particularly true with language programs in which time is limited. The pages entitled **Ideas Para Practicar en Casa** are designed to keep communication open with all of your students' families. Each page explains what took place during that day's lesson and offers tangible ideas for how parents can support and continue the learning at home. Often these pages can come with activity sheets, booklets, or links that you can provide to extend learning. Student created learning tools also are sent home with these pages. Present these to parents with suggestions for how to keep them available at home, for example, place them in a binder that stays on the coffee table or display them on the refrigerator. To complement the ideas on the page, be sure to remind parents that they can learn more about what their children are experiencing by purchasing the **MARACAS Las Cuatro Estaciones** CD. Songs from each lesson are noted on the "Ideas" pages. **Ideas Para Practicar en Casa** will help you bridge the gap from your classroom to your students' homes and keep the ideas growing in their minds.