

Listening Ability

Proficiency Target: Novice High

How well do Kindergarten Spanish students understand what they hear?

Students are able to understand short, learned utterances and some sentence-length utterances, particularly where context strongly supports understanding and speech is clearly audible. They can comprehend words and phrases from simple questions, statements, high-frequency commands and courtesy formulae. At this level, students may require repetition, rephrasing and/ or a slowed rate of speech for comprehension.

adapted from the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines—Listening

When students exhibit Novice High listening proficiency in Spanish, here are some examples of the kinds of things they are able to understand:

1. short conversations about daily life, routines and other familiar topics
2. short descriptions of people
3. short, simple messages and announcements
4. information pertaining to subject area content
5. directions and instructions limited to one or two steps
6. simple stories that follow a logical order and are supported by props, visuals and/or gestures

Speaking Ability

Proficiency Target: Novice Mid

How well do Kindergarten Spanish students speak?

These new speakers are more comfortable responding to questions rather than asking them. When they respond, they use isolated words, several words, a phrase or maybe a short sentence to answer the question. Often when they respond, they recycle the words of their speaking partner. It is not unusual for these speakers to frequently hesitate to search for words and to exhibit language inaccuracies as they attempt to respond. Topics that they can talk about pertain to themselves, their immediate environment and content of subjects they are studying in school.

adapted from the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines—Speaking

When students exhibit Novice Mid speaking ability in Spanish, here are examples of the kinds of things they can do:

1. greet someone in a culturally appropriate manner
2. introduce self
3. ask “how are you?”
4. respond appropriately to the question “how are you?”
5. answer simple questions to provide basic information
6. ask simple, formulaic questions
6. provide simple information on subject matter content

Reading Ability

Proficiency Target: Novice Mid

How well do Kindergarten Spanish students read?

They are able to recognize the letters of the writing system. They can identify a number of highly contextualized words and phrases including cognates and borrowed words but rarely understand material that exceeds a single phrase. Rereading is often required.

adapted from the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines--Reading*

When students exhibit Novice Mid reading ability in Spanish, here are some examples of the kinds of things they can read:

1. words on a list from very familiar topics
1. very simple information on familiar topics
2. short, simple descriptions, especially if there are pictures or other supportive visuals
3. common environmental print with contextualized messages (i.e., signs, boxes, wrappers)

At this level, they can also:

1. connect letters to their sounds
2. connect some words and phrases to their meanings
3. recognize some words and phrases with help from visuals
4. follow along on the page when the text is being read aloud

Writing Ability

Proficiency Target: Novice Mid

How well do 1st Grade Spanish students write?

They copy or transcribe familiar words or phrases and reproduce from memory a modest number of isolated words and phrases in context. Novice-Mid writers exhibit a high degree of accuracy when writing on well-practiced, familiar topics using limited formulaic language. With less familiar topics, there is a marked decrease in accuracy. Errors in spelling may be frequent. They can supply limited information on simple forms and documents and provide other basic biographical information, such as names, address, phone number.

adapted from the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines--Writing*

When students exhibit Novice Mid writing ability in Spanish, here are some examples of the kinds of things they can write:

1. basic personal information (name, address, phone number, birth date)
2. brief descriptions of people or places mostly in list form
3. responses to simple questions
4. simple information related to subject matter content