

Reading Processes in Spanish Los Procesos de Lectura en Español

The four reading processes can be applied to Spanish as well.

Decoding - Decodificación

In Spanish, it is essential for students to be able to segment, delete, and manipulate individual phonemes. Students learn to blend sounds at the phoneme level to read syllables and words.

Example: /s/ /o/ /l/ = sol

Sight - Reconocimiento automático de palabras

Although the Spanish language has a regular phonetic system, there are certain syllables or spelling patterns that have to be learned so they can be recognized and read automatically.

Example: "que" and "qui" have to be recognized as making the sound /ke/ and /ki/ without pronouncing the "u."

Analogy - Analogías

In Spanish, reading by analogy refers to recalling words that have been already learned and using parts of their spellings to read new words that have similar spelling patterns. An additional dimension to reading by analogy in Spanish is recognizing syllables that have been learned before and using those to read new words. For example, when children know the word part *-al*, then they can read these words: *cal, sal, tal, mal*. If children know the syllable *ma-*, they can read: *mamá, mata, matador, mano, masa, malo, etc.*

Prediction - Predicción

Context also plays a very important role in learning to read in Spanish. It might seem that learning to read in Spanish is easier as it is more phonetically regular. However, Spanish readers also have to pay attention to context and syntax cues to read effectively.

Adapted from Moustafa, M. & Maldonado-Colón, E. (1999). Whole-to-part phonics instruction: Building on what children know to help them know more. *The Reading Teacher*, 52 (5), pp. 448-458; Borzone, A. & Signori, A. (1994). Phonological awareness, spelling and reading abilities in Spanish-speaking children. *British Journal of Educational Psychology*, 64, pp. 429-439.