

10 Key Elements to Look for in a Quality Spanish Program

1. Daily opportunity to hear Spanish and to see it being used in a way that doesn't overwhelm the learner.
2. A system that is fun and motivates children to learn, and includes: clearly defined learning goals, rewards for achievement, and a easy to use learning plan.
3. Interaction with a teacher and other learners (good "peer pressure")
4. Easy to use and cost effective.
5. Involves parents in the learning process.
6. Simple and appropriate assessments to track progress.
7. Proper balance between academic learning and oral language development.
8. Customizable to meet the needs and tastes of learners - one size doesn't fit all. Resources should be age appropriate.
9. Multi-modal: uses different learning techniques, such as: music, singing, video, activities, games, books, stories, and contests. Multi-modal learning is always more effective than any single mode.
10. Multiple contexts: Spanish is presented in multiple contexts, and not just mindless repetition. Hearing the same language set used in different contexts allows children to start to develop an *intuition* for Spanish.

We have all heard the claims "learn Spanish in 30 days" – we buy a CD here or a video there - use it for a little while – and are almost always disappointed. Many people take a couple of years of Spanish in high school or college, learn how to conjugate and pass tests, but never really develop any proficiency in Spanish. As you explore options for your child to learn Spanish, this list will help you to make an informed decision so your children can have fun with Spanish as well as lay a solid foundation for success. Give your child the gift knowing Spanish - along with the cognitive and developmental advantages of learning a second language.

Whether your goal is Spanish for fun, or total fluency - Progressive Language will help you and your children achieve those goals.