

REFERENCES

Information gathered from the following sources:

1. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
2. The Center for Applied Linguistics
3. Nandutí: Early Language Learning
4. Redmond, M. L. "Attention! Are You Seeking A Position With Long-Term Benefits? Be An Advocate!" Learning Languages 4.1 (Fall 1998): 1-6.

USEFUL RESOURCES

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) www.actfl.org/

Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) www.cal.org/

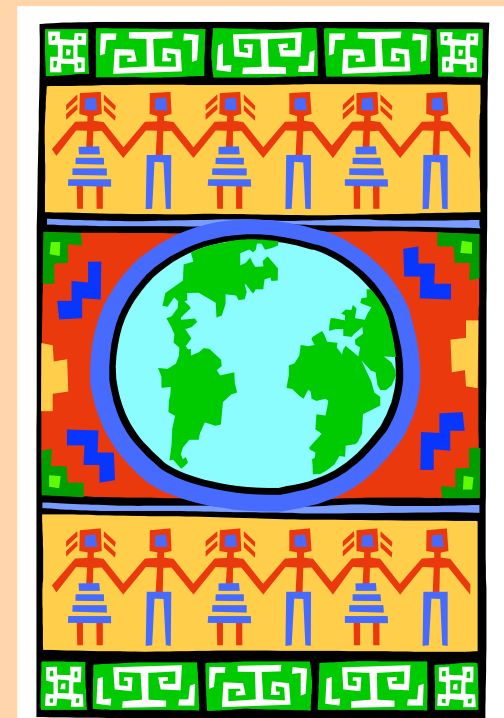
National Network for Early Language Learning (NNELL) www.nnell.org/

Ñandutí: Foreign Language Learning Grades PreK-8 (Through CAL) www.cal.org/earlylang

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Spanish Education

Why, How, and When?



PROMOTING
MULTILINGUISM IN
SCHOOLS

WHY FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION?

Starting to learn a foreign language at a young age has countless benefits. Below are just a few reasons foreign language education should be included in the elementary school:

- Develop a **lifelong ability to communicate** with people from different countries and backgrounds
- Strengthen English literacy
- Develop comfort with **cultural differences**
- Expand critical thinking skills, acute listening skills, and enhance imagination and creativity
- Allow greater career opportunities later in life
- Raise standardized test scores
- Explore another culture

“Learning a language at any age is beneficial. Some studies have shown that the human brain is more open to linguistic development during the years between birth and pre-adolescence and that children who learn a language before the onset of adolescence are more likely to develop native-like pronunciation.” (CAL)

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF SPANISH EDUCATION PROGRAMS?

There are many types of Spanish education programs established depending on the type of instruction or proficiency desired, the types of students, and the types of teachers.

1. FLES: Foreign Language in the Elementary School (sequential)
2. FLEX: Foreign Language Experience Exploratory (limited)
3. Partial Immersion
4. Total Immersion
5. For Spanish speakers: ESL (English as a Second Language), ELL (English Language Learners), SNS (Spanish for Native Speakers)

Immersion programs offer the greatest amount of time in language study and produce students with the highest levels of proficiency. The largest number of programs are **FLES**- classes taught three to five times a week for no less than 30-40 minutes per class. **Exploratory programs** introduce students to other cultures and to language as a general concept.

STRATEGIES FOR ELEMENTARY SPANISH TEACHERS

- Advocate for your program
- Inform parents, administrators, and community members of program goals
- Display students' accomplishments
- Encourage visitors: parents, Spanish speakers, exchange students
- Encourage Spanish-speaking parents to use both languages at home
- Develop a Lending Library of Spanish books, magazines, and materials to be taken home
- Create bilingual resources such as parent letters, newsletters, and curriculum materials
- Network with colleagues in middle school and high school language departments or in other districts

