

Frequently Asked Questions - PALS español K

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1. General Information about PALS español K

Are there any major differences between administering PALS K and PALS español K?

There are, indeed, a few differences in the administration of PALS español K. It is highly recommended that only a fluent speaker of Spanish administer PALS español, as the Administration and Scoring Guide has sections written in Spanish. PALS español K is not a translation of the English version of PALS-K.

Does it matter if a student speaks Spanish, English, or a combination of both during assessment?

Students should speak Spanish for all tasks during testing, whether they are repeating a word after the assessor, or they are reading words on their own.

2. Phonological Awareness (Beginning Sound Awareness, Rhyme Awareness)

What do I do if a student is speaking English when he or she repeats the words during the individual Beginning Sound Awareness task?

The assessor will be speaking in Spanish. If the child says the word in English, remind him/her to say it in Spanish.

3. Alphabet and Digraph Knowledge and Letter-Sound Knowledge

Why are the digraphs “ch” and “ll” included in these tasks?

While these digraphs are not officially considered part of the Spanish alphabet, they are typically an important part of beginning reading instruction in Spanish.

Early reading instruction in Spanish typically uses an approach that emphasizes syllables rather than individual phonemes (letter sounds). How does the PALS español Letter Sounds task address this difference?

In the Letter Sounds task, children are given credit for either a single phoneme response (e.g., /d/ for the letter *D*) or a syllabic response (e.g., /da/, /de/, /di/, /do/, or /du/ for the letter *D*).

What do I do if my student calls English and Spanish letters interchangeably on the Alphabet and Digraph Recognition task?

Remind the student to answer in Spanish one time. If the student continues to answer in English, the answer is scored as incorrect.

When administering the Spelling task, what do I do if my student cannot write in Spanish?

If a child says s/he is unable to write in Spanish, encourage the child to do his/her best. If there are no correct words or features, score each word and letter feature as zero. If the a child writes words in English and Spanish interchangeably, score only the correct features and/or words that are written in Spanish.

4. Concept of Word

How were the rhymes chosen for the Concept of Word task?

The rhymes used in PALS español are traditional nursery rhymes approved by an advisory board of native Spanish speakers and literacy specialists.

5. Word Recognition in Isolation

What is the purpose of the optional Word Recognition in Isolation task?

The Word Recognition in Isolation task can be administered when the teacher thinks the student has some reading ability, and is curious to find out how much. The Word Recognition in Isolation task indicates the kindergartener's probable instructional oral reading level.