



**Just Right
Reader**

Just Right Reader's Response to the **Kindergarten Spanish Phonics IMRA Report 2024**

Just Right Reader is committed to providing a robust phonics program aligned with the Science of Reading. The Just Right Reader Spanish Kindergarten Phonics Program is meticulously crafted to support literacy instruction, with a variety of engaging and effective resources aimed at helping students develop foundational phonics skills. We are proud that our program has been found 100% aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Kindergarten. In this response, we aim to address and clarify key points from the review and highlight the strengths of our program.

We appreciate the thoughtful feedback from the IMRA 2024 review committee, and we hope this response clarifies how our Spanish Kindergarten Phonics Program is designed to meet the needs of both students and teachers. Our program's commitment to systematic phonics instruction, differentiated support, and ongoing assessment ensures students can develop foundational literacy skills. We remain dedicated to supporting Texas educators and students on their literacy journey.

SECTION 1:

Course, Unit, and Lesson Design

(Responding to Sections 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3)

- **Course-Level Design (1.1):** We understand the importance of structured course-level design and are pleased to highlight that our program provides a comprehensive, research-based *Scope and Sequence* that clearly outlines the spiraled progression of Spanish phonics skills. This structured approach ensures that students build on foundational knowledge throughout the year, progressing from basic to more advanced concepts. The Just Right Reader *Pacing Guide* for Kindergarten offers a 36-week roadmap, ensuring teachers have clear direction for daily and weekly instruction.
- **Unit-Level Design (1.2):** The feedback mentioned the need for more comprehensive unit overviews. We clarify that the Just Right Reader *Unit/Module Overviews* summarize the skills taught in each unit that are aligned with the TEKS. Additionally, the *Weekly Overviews* outline specific instructional strategies and materials needed, supporting teachers in planning effective lessons. While we acknowledge the need for more explicit family support suggestions, we are proud of the QR code-accessible phonics videos that families can use to reinforce learning at home. Additionally, our *Emergent Bilingual* support includes opportunities for family support. Finally, our *Take-Everywhere Literacy Packs*, curated using adopted titles, intend to build at-home libraries and promote strong family engagement around literacy and reading.
- **Lesson-Level Design (1.3):** *Just Right Reader Lesson Plans* are intentionally structured to ensure that each day includes explicit, systematic phonics instruction, guided practice, and independent application. For instance, every lesson includes detailed daily objectives, questions, and assessments to meet TEKS standards. We provide teachers with structured tools like *Elkonin Boxes*, *Letter Tiles*, and *Reading Workouts* to support instructional delivery, helping students develop and strengthen their phonics skills.



SECTION 2:

Differentiation and Scaffolding

(Responding to Sections 3.1 and 3.3)

- **Differentiation and Scaffolding (3.1):** Differentiation is a key component of our program. Each lesson provides strategies for reteaching and supporting struggling learners through additional activities and resources. For instance, our *Spanish Reading Workouts* offer extra practice in phonemic awareness, decoding, high-frequency words, fluency, comprehension, and reading confidence. Teachers can easily access QR Code Phonics Videos to provide reteaching opportunities, and our Prompting Guide ensures that teachers have specific language for addressing common challenges.
- **Support for Emergent Bilingual Learners (3.3):** The Just Right Reader Spanish Phonics Program focuses on supporting emergent bilingual learners. We provide the *Emergent Bilingual Support for Dual Language Programs Guide*, which accommodates students at various proficiency levels. This guide includes differentiated strategies for language development, comprehension, and vocabulary building. In addition, our decodable texts and associated *QR Phonics Videos* provide bilingual support, helping students make cross-linguistic connections.

Phonemic Awareness

(5 minutes)

1. Use picture cards to show /f/

Say: Hoy estamos escuchando palabras que comienzan con el sonido /f/. (Show: 3 cards that begin with /f/ and 1 that does not. Possible pictures: Foca, fresa, fiesta, pepino, orca)

Say: Mira estas fotografías. Algunos comienzan con /f/. Tu trabajo es encontrar la imagen que no comienza con /f/. Diré el nombre de cada imagen y lo repetirás. (Show and say each picture. Students repeat.) ¿Qué imagen no comienza con /f/?

2. If students do not identify the correct picture, repeat each card

Say the name of each picture, emphasize the beginning sound, then repeat the name of the picture again. Continue with more pictures, if needed.

Ex: foca, /fff/ foca. ¿Eso comienza con el sonido /f/? ¡Sí!

Phonics Review

(5 minutes)

1. Introduce the letter Ff

Say: Veamos la letra que hace el sonido /f/. (Show the letter Ff card.) Esta es la letra F. Esta es una mayúscula F. Comienza con una línea grande hacia abajo, una línea pequeña arriba, una línea pequeña en el medio. Esta es la letra minúscula f. Curvas hacia arriba y alrededor, una línea grande hacia abajo, una línea pequeña en el medio. F hace el sonido /f/.

Say: Di la letra F conmigo mientras señalo la letra. F, f. Ahora digamos su sonido. /f/, /f/.

Kindergarten

Linguistic Access

- Respect the student
- Provide scaffolds
- Visual Supports
- New vocabulary
- Sentence Frame
- Bilingual Glossary
- Simplified Language
- Frequently used
- Provide multiple
- in various accents

Intermediate Level

- Provide scaffolds
- Sentence Frame
- Cooperative Learning
- Scaffolded Text
- Understanding of
- Focus on the content
- Provide multiple
- in various accents

Advanced Level

- Provide scaffolds
- Sentence Frame
- Academic Content
- Academic language
- Independent use of vocabulary
- Higher Order Thinking
- Independent use of
- Provide multiple
- in various accents

Just Right Reader TEXAS

Emergent Bilingual Support Guide

Aligned to the Science of Reading and TEKS

Just Right Reader Decodables


SECTION 3:

Phonics Rule Compliance and Foundational Skills

(Responding to Sections 4.2, 4.3, 5.D.1, 5.D.2)

- **Phonics Rule Compliance (4.2-4.3):** Just Right Reader phonics instruction follows a systematic and explicit sequence that introduces sound-symbol correspondences in an intentional, systematic order. Each *Just Right Reader Lesson Plan* includes daily opportunities for phonics practice, both in isolation and through connected text. For example, our lesson for *En el cañón* guides students through phoneme segmentation and blending, reinforced through decodable text reading. Cumulative review is also integrated throughout the program, with specific weeks designated for reviewing previously taught phonics skills. The *Prompting Guide* guides teachers in responding to common errors with immediate feedback.
- **Phonological and Phonemic Awareness (5.D.1-5.D.2):** We are committed to fostering strong phonological and phonemic awareness in our students. Our lessons begin with phonemic and phonological awareness activities like identifying, segmenting, and blending phonemes, and clapping syllables, rhyming, and manipulating sounds. These skills are reinforced through decodable text reading, where students apply these skills in context. For instance, in the *El reto de Reni* lesson, students practice decoding multisyllabic words, applying their knowledge of phonemes in connected text.

The image shows a lesson plan for 'El reto de Reni' (The Challenge of Reni) focusing on the letter R (hard) in Spanish. The lesson is titled 'Phonics Review: Palabras con la letra R (fuerte) (5 minutes)'. It includes an introduction, phonological awareness activities, and a reading activity. The lesson plan section includes a learning objective, materials and preparation, key skills, and a QR code for teacher resources.

Learning Objective	Materials and Preparation
Students will identify and read words beginning with the letter R (hard).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Copy of <i>El reto de Reni</i> for each student• Elomin boxes• Spanish letter tiles• Whiteboards and markers• Index cards• Reading Observation Form• Prompting Guide• Paper and pencil
Key Skills	
Phonics focus: Decoding words with the letter R (hard). The hard R sound is pronounced /r/ in Spanish.	Find all teacher resources here:  https://bit.ly/jr-resources password: jrteacher

SECTION 4:

Assessment and Progress Monitoring

(Responding to Sections 4.4 and 4.5)

- **Assessment (4.4):** The Just Right Reader Spanish Phonics Program includes a comprehensive system of assessments, including diagnostic, formative, and summative tools. Our *Phonics Skills Checklist* and *Reading Observation Forms* also help teachers track student progress on an in-the-moment basis throughout the year. The *Just Right Reader Assessment and Progress Monitoring Guide* offers teachers guidance on administering assessments, interpreting data to support instructional decisions, and sharing data with stakeholders.
- **Progress Monitoring (4.5):** The *Just Right Reader Progress Monitoring Guide* helps teachers track student growth through weekly and monthly assessments. This guide outlines clear steps for monitoring progress, adjusting instruction, and accelerating learning based on individual student needs. The *Phonics and Fluency Monitoring Form* tracks whole-class progress and assists in making data-driven instructional decisions.



The form is titled "Just Right Reader Phonics Skills Checklist". It includes fields for Student Name, Teacher, Date, and Grade Level. The checklist is divided into three main sections: "Phonics Skills", "Additional Observations", and "Teacher's Initials".

Phonics Skills

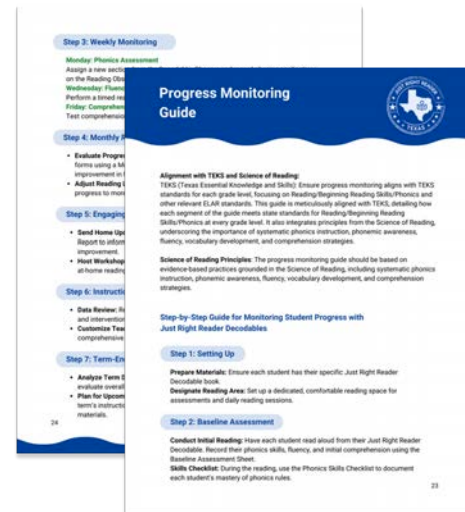
Alphabet Knowledge	Phonics Rules
<input type="checkbox"/> Recognizes Spanish uppercase letters	<input type="checkbox"/> Subtle types (e.g., open 'm', closed 'm')
<input type="checkbox"/> Recognizes Spanish lowercase letters	<input type="checkbox"/> Consonant blends (e.g., 'M', 'V')
<input type="checkbox"/> Phonemic Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/> Digraphs and triphthongs (e.g., 'lleno', 'leño')
<input type="checkbox"/> Can identify initial sounds in Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong and weak vowels
<input type="checkbox"/> Can identify final sounds	Sight Words
<input type="checkbox"/> Can identify medial sounds	<input type="checkbox"/> Recognizes grade-level Spanish sight words

Additional Observations

Specific Strengths _____

Areas for Improvement _____

Teacher's Initials _____



The guide is titled "Progress Monitoring Guide" and features a blue header with the Texas state seal. It is organized into several sections:

- Step 3: Weekly Monitoring**
 - Monday: Phonics Assessment
 - Wednesday: Fluency
 - Friday: Comprehension
- Step 4: Monthly**
 - Evaluate Progress
 - Adjust Reading Program
- Step 5: Engaging**
 - Send Home Tip
 - Meet Workshop
- Step 6: Instruction**
 - Data Review
 - Customize Text
- Step 7: Term-End**
 - Analyze Term
 - Plan for Upcoming

Alignment with TEKS and Science of Reading: This guide is meticulously aligned with TEKS, detailing how each segment of the guide meets state standards for Reading-Beginning Reading Skills/Phonics at every grade level. It also integrates principles from the Science of Reading, underscoring the importance of systematic phonics instruction, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary development, and comprehension strategies.

Science of Reading Principles: The progress monitoring guide should be based on evidence-based practices grounded in the Science of Reading, including systematic phonics instruction, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary development, and comprehension strategies.

Step-by-Step Guide for Monitoring Student Progress with Just Right Reader Decodables

- Step 1: Setting Up**
 - Prepare Materials: Ensure each student has their specific Just Right Reader Decodable book.
 - Designate Reading Area: Set up a dedicated, comfortable reading space for assessments and daily reading sessions.
- Step 2: Baseline Assessment**
 - Conduct Initial Reading: Have each student read aloud from their Just Right Reader Decodable. Record their phonics skills, fluency, and initial comprehension using the Baseline Assessment Sheet.
 - Skills Checklist: During the reading, use the Phonics Skills Checklist to document each student's mastery of phonics rules.

SECTION 5:

Oral Language Development and Phonological Awareness

(Responding to Sections 5.B.1 and 5.C.1)

- **Oral Language Development (5.B.1):** *Just Right Reader Lesson Plans* include opportunities for students to develop rich oral language through guided discussions, partner activities, and comprehension questions. The *Reading Review* section of each lesson fosters student discussions about the text, and our QR code-accessible videos model proper pronunciation and language use. In addition, the *Spanish Prompting Guide* provides teachers with specific prompts to support oral language development.
- **Alphabet Knowledge (5.C.1):** The alphabet is systematically introduced and reinforced throughout our Kindergarten program in Books Sets 1-7. Our decodable texts, the lesson plans, and the associated phonics videos provide explicit instruction on letter names and sounds. Activities like *Elkonin Boxes* and letter-tracing exercises help students solidify their understanding of the Spanish alphabet. At the same time, weekly reviews ensure they master both uppercase and lowercase letters.

Reading Review

(5 minutes)

1. Group discussion

Say: ¿Cómo se sintió Julián antes, durante y después de viajar en avión?

2. Find words in the book that have the stress in the last syllable

Students find a word and put their finger on it. When everyone has found a word, students share the word they found out loud or with a partner.

