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Introduction

How do you teach a foreign language to children who barely speak English? I teach Spanish to three-year-olds by sitting at their eye level and having fun with songs, games, and lots of repetition. Just when you think preschoolers may never learn the words or songs, they surprise you. Mothers tell me that children will shout out, "Mom—leche!" as they pass the milk section of the grocery store. Parents are impressed that their children have learned so much in such little time.

"Miss Winnie" has become a term of endearment at two of my schools, knowing that the preschoolers will never be able to call me Mrs. Waltzer-Hackett. I greet the children with a big grin and "Hola!" whenever I see them. They love this new word so much that I often hear them say, "Hola is here. It's time for Spanish!" Perhaps my favorite memory is of a new child, Olga, who arrived from Austria and was immediately thrown into an English-speaking preschool. Since she knew only German, we feared that Spanish would overwhelm her. For the first few weeks, she sat with the teacher and worked on her English skills while the class learned Spanish with me. After about a month, she decided to come to Spanish class to see what the other children were learning. As she shyly entered, I raised my hand to wave to her and said, "Hola!" "No. 'Olga,' " she corrected me!

Don't be discouraged if the children can't quite pronounce the words. Sometimes I hear them counting "uno, toes, glaze, tacos, cinco." Granted, that's not quite how to count to five, but the effort and enthusiasm is there. I rarely leave without a smile on my face. Just repeat the words, give them lots of practice, and gently correct them. You'll be amazed at their progress. It's so much fun to Teach Them Spanish!

Winnie Waltzer-Hackett



Lesson Plans

Unit 1 — Greetings and Numbers

Three Levels

Teacher Preparations Checklist

** = enrichment activity

Materials needed (to collect or purchase)

- plastic basket
- assortment of stickers for class rewards
- large foam dice (several)
- fabric scraps for beanbags
- dry beans
- several pieces of poster board, assorted colors
- ** toy xylophone
- ** 20 lids from frozen juice cans
- ** pennies for bingo game

- 20 cardboard dominoes with sticker dots
 - 2 cards per number (2 cards with one dot, 2 cards with two dots, etc., so that each number appears twice in the set of dominoes) laminated
- ** numbers bingo cards (pages 75, 77, 78), laminated
- ** Find Four game boards (page 86), laminated
- ** memory game (poster board, 20 juice lids, numbers on page 80)

Materials needed (to make)

- numbers flash cards (page 81)
- 10 beanbags

Photocopying needed

- songs: "Hola Means Hello," "Tres (Cinco, Diez) amigos," "Adios Means Good-bye" (page 38)
- ** numbers posters (pages 61–63)

Enrichment Activities

Group	Song/Activity	Ideas and Objectives	Materials Needed
Any	Mini booklet	Color and assemble a mini booklet to take home.	My Numbers Book (pages 42–45), crayons, scissors, stapler
Any	Counting book	Read a bilingual counting book.	<i>Uno, dos, tres: One, Two, Three</i>
Any	Counting book	Read a counting book and have children count the items.	<i>¿Cuántos hay?</i>
Any	Counting book	Read a counting book and have children count the items.	<i>Mis primeros números</i>
Any	Counting book	Read a bilingual counting book.	<i>Numbers/Los números</i>
Young preschool	Numbers poster	Color a numbers poster (1–3).	Numbers poster (page 61)
Preschool	Numbers poster	Color a numbers poster (1–5).	Numbers poster (page 62)
Pre-K	Numbers poster	Color a numbers poster (1–10).	Numbers poster (page 63)
Preschool	Numbers bingo (1–5)	Find the number shown (and called out) by the teacher.	numbers flash cards (1–5), bingo cards, pennies for markers
Pre-K	Numbers bingo (1–10)	Find the number shown (and called out) by the teacher.	numbers flash cards (1–10), bingo cards, pennies for markers
Pre-K	Find Four	Pick number cards and try to collect four different numbers.	Find Four game boards, number cards 1–10
Pre-K	Memory game	Turn over lids and try to match the numbers.	number lids 1–10, game board
Pre-K	Xylophone	Roll a die. Strike the xylophone the same number of times as the number shown on the die.	xylophone, large foam die



Lesson Plans

Unit 1 — Greetings and Numbers

Young Preschool Level

¡Hola! – Hello!

¡Adiós! – Good-bye!

gracias – thank you

de nada – you're welcome

uno – one

dos – two

tres – three

Frequency	Song/Activity	Ideas and Objectives	Materials Needed
Each class	Numbers introduction/review	Repeat after the teacher the numbers 1-3.	
Each class	"Tres amigos"	Sing and count to three.	Songs and Chants (page 38)

Frequency	Song/Activity	Ideas and Objectives	Materials Needed
Week 1	Counting practice	Count 1-3 while tossing beanbags into a basket.	beanbags, basket
Week 2	Dominoes	Count the dots 1-3 on large dominoes.	large cardboard dominoes
Week 3	Counting book	Read a counting book in Spanish. Have the children count items 1-3 as the teacher reads.	<i>¿Cuántos son?</i>
Week 4	Counting book	Read a bilingual counting book.	Three Friends/ Tres amigos
Week 5	Counting practice	Roll a die and count the dots 1-3.	large foam die
Week 6	Counting book and practice	Read a counting book in Spanish. Have the children count items 1-3 as the teacher reads.	<i>Cuenta con Cato Galano</i>



Lesson Plans

Unit 1 — Greetings and Numbers

Preschool Level)

¡Hola! — Hello!

¡Adiós! — Good-bye!

gracias — thank you

de nada — you're welcome

uno — one

dos — two

tres — three

cuatro — four

cinco — five

Frequency	Song/Activity	Ideas and Objectives	Materials Needed
Each class	Numbers introduction/review	Repeat after the teacher the numbers 1-5.	
Each class	"Cinco amigos"	Sing and count to five.	Songs and Chants (page 38)

Frequency	Song/Activity	Ideas and Objectives	Materials Needed
Week 1	Counting practice	Count 1-5 while tossing beanbags into a basket.	beanbags, basket
Week 2	Dominoes	Count the dots 1-5 on large dominoes.	large cardboard dominoes
Week 3	Counting book	Read a counting book in Spanish. Have the children count items 1-5 as the teacher reads.	¿Cuántos son?
Week 4	Counting book	Read a bilingual counting book.	Three Friends/ Tres amigos
Week 5	Counting practice	Roll a die and count the dots 1-5.	large foam die
Week 6	Counting book and practice	Read a counting book in Spanish. Have the children count items 1-5 as the teacher reads.	Cuenta con Cato <i>Galano</i>
	Counting practice	Color and assemble the book of numbers.	My Numbers Book (pages 42-43), crayons