

# **Questions and Answers for Parents about Reading**

**1. Should I read to my child in English?**

Absolutely! It will help foster a love and value of reading and helps improve your child's listening comprehension. It also enriches your child's vocabulary, grammar, concepts about print and expands their attention span. When your child begins to read in Spanish, take turns reading. Give your child opportunities to practice reading in Spanish at home.

**2. Do you teach reading in English in kindergarten and first grade?**

No. We focus on reading instruction in Spanish only.

**3. When does the school begin to teach reading in English?**

As of now, reading instruction in English will begin in third grade.



**4. Should I put my child in an after-school English reading program in kindergarten and in the first grade?**

We recommend that any formal reading instruction in English should be postponed until the child develops strong reading fluency and comprehension in Spanish. We have noticed that it can cause some confusion and frustration for the child as they are emergent readers and still learning how to blend letter sounds and improve fluency.

**5. What should I do if I have concerns about my child's reading development?**

There are many factors that contribute to reading difficulties so we recommend you talk to your child's teacher as soon as you have any concerns.

**6. What can I do at home to help support my child's reading development?**

We encourage you to read to your child in English and in Spanish (if possible) on a daily basis. You can introduce new vocabulary, check for understanding, ask questions about the story and make predictions with your child about the story.

**7. What skills does my child need to read in Spanish?**

The five components of our reading instruction focus on building phonemic and phonological awareness, fluency, building vocabulary and text comprehension. Our goal is to build a strong foundation of these skills that are then easily transferred when English reading begins.

**8. Will my child struggle to learn to read in English since he/she has been learning to read in Spanish?**

Initially you might notice some confusion with letter sounds since letters in English can have different sounds. Learning to read fluently in Spanish is much easier and most students transition naturally into reading in English. We strongly advise not to formally teach reading in English; however, we understand some students come to our school already reading in English. If they naturally pick up reading in English, please do not discourage this as we also want to foster a love of reading in both languages.