

# Preschool and Kindergarten Classes

A kindergarten student's attention span is typically between 10 and 18 minutes. This is based on the general rule that a child's attention span is about two to three minutes per year of age.

**3-year-old attention span: 6 to 8 minutes. 4-year-old attention span: 8 to 12 minutes. 5- to 6-year-old attention span: 12 to 18 minutes.**

## **Suggested useful materials for K3, K4 and K5 classes:**

- Los Chiquitos Futura book and Level I -yellow book
  - Puppets for Spanish introductions (Dani and Beto)
  - Finger puppets (to review la familia) [Finger puppets](#)
  - Musical instruments like maracas, tambourine, drums (ask the music teacher if you can borrow some from her class)
  - Color flashcards/ hard copy of the colors made of construction paper
  - Images of bien, mal, más o menos (to review ¿Cómo estás?, emociones)
  - Images of numbers 0-20 (to teach los números)
  - Mr. Potato Head (to review las partes del cuerpo) <https://shorturl.at/Cn1DF>
  - Fly swatters (to play mata la mosca with variety of topics)
  - Props like hats, microphones, etc. <https://shorturl.at/Nv7ti>
  - Worksheets, handouts for counting, color by number, etc. (find them on out preschool lessons tab) <https://futuraadventures.com/employee-resources-home/preschool-lessons/>
  - Spanish English book for you to read out loud to your students (check if your school library has one that will adapt to your students age, or purchase one with your Futura expense allotment)
- Examples: ¿Cómo estás? <https://shorturl.at/dfYpl> La Gallinita Roja <https://shorturl.at/J8Vba>



→ **Computer/smartboard:** if you have the opportunity to incorporate technology in your classroom, take advantage of it! Use Futura's YouTube video Reference list to help you with useful interactive videos where students can dance and sing along in español!

*Having ALL your tabs open and ready ahead of time is a must as this will help your fast paced activities to transition smoothly.*

## Typical day in a Kindergarten class:

*The information below is intended to give you useful ideas for a typical kindergarten class. These ideas can be split up or adapted to your own students' needs, class period length and school resources!*



- 1) Start by greeting with **buenos días** or **buenas tardes** depending on the time.
- 2) Ask them to stand up **levántense** and begin with the greeting's song.
- 3) Then say the command **siéntense** (using the gesture) and verify that everyone is ready to listen.
- 4) Use your puppets Dani and Beto to help you with a conversation starter like **¿Cómo te llamas?** **¿Cómo estás?** Ask students if they guessed what the puppets were talking about. Encourage lots of repetition and use of gestures.
- 5) Move to another song related to the topic you will be teaching. For example, **los colores**, students stand up again, dance and sing along the song about colores.
- 6) After they sit down you can review the colors by holding the flashcards or hard copy of the colors made of construction paper.
- 7) Now ask them to gather around the carpet or the table and give them turns to play **mata la mosca** with the fly swatters. You will call out a Spanish color and they point at the right color with it.
- 8) Students then can go back to their seats and before they sit down, play another video song or just sing it out loud, and your students will sing along with you.
- 9) Now will be a great opportunity to invite your students to sit down and complete a worksheet. You will then explain the instructions, use the whiteboard to give examples of your expectations. You could also project the same handout on the smart board and work along with them.
  - Be sure that you know ahead of time where the coloring supplies are or if the classroom teacher has a "helper of the day system". This will save you lots of time!
- 10) For the students that finish their handout quickly, you can either have extra handouts like counting numbers, connecting dots or you can play a fun video in Spanish as a reward.

*All the above can be adapted to any topic you will be teaching: saludos y despedidas, colores, números, partes del cuerpo. la familia, etc.*

## Here are some more tips:

- **Position students.** If possible, consider seating students away from windows and doors to reduce distractions. You can also position students near peers who are focused on their work.
- **Use attention getters.** Try using a clapping pattern or a phrase like "ojos en mí" to get students' attention, Spanish countdowns, ring a bell, turn off the lights.
- **Games.** Children's rounds, around the room games. Take a look at these Spanish activities do to in preschool <https://www.spanishplayground.net/spanish-preschool-activities/>. Also, Digipuzzle is a wonderful website to encourage your students to count, match, identify colors, shapes in Spanish <https://www.digipuzzle.net/>
- **Give brain breaks.** Every 5 to 10 minutes, give students a short break to stretch, meditate, or relax. Play some instrumental music if possible. For example, <https://youtu.be/MRGxCTw73-0?si=W368xwXTxTt4Nohx>
- **Build relationships.** Get to know your students and show interest in their lives. Positive approach can soften those challenging students.
- **Traveling suggestions.** If you are a traveling teacher, you are in constant movement from one class to another with your cart. Using bins, baskets, and buckets to separate supplies for each class can be useful. A folder organizer hanging on the side of your cart can be effective in organizing the papers of those students that missed a class. <https://shorturl.at/wa2L3>. See more useful tricks and tips here <https://teachwithnd.com/traveling-teacher-cart-ideas/>

**REMEMBER:** kindergarten students love to sing, dance and movement. Use that to your advantage during Spanish class as well of repetition!

**¡Gracias por tu arduo trabajo! – Thank you for your hard work!**

