



May 1, 2024

The Aprendo Leyendo (AL) reading program is committed to improving Spanish reading instruction by promoting best practices. Aprendo Leyendo appreciates The Reading League’s aim to enhance awareness, comprehension, and implementation of evidence-based reading strategies. This letter contains information not included in The Reading League’s review with the goal of presenting a comprehensive understanding of the full scope and reach of the Aprendo Leyendo program.

The Review Team’s Findings

Aprendo Leyendo is pleased and proud to report that the program “meets” or “mostly meets” the majority of the criteria in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, handwriting, spelling, and reading comprehension for Grades K-2.

The Reading League’s findings are consistent with the outcomes in schools using Aprendo Leyendo and, especially, in a recent research trial evaluation of the program conducted by the Haskins Global Literacy Hub at Yale and the Universidad de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires. Reading outcomes for first and second graders receiving Aprendo Leyendo instruction was contrasted with that of students receiving business-as-usual instruction in public schools in the city of Buenos Aires. Students in the Aprendo Leyendo group demonstrated significantly greater growth than their control peers on important dimensions of reading and reading-related skills. Please visit the [Aprendo Leyendo website](#) and [Haskins Global Literacy Hub](#) for more detailed information about the trials and for further information about our research partners and projects.

Other Important Components of Aprendo Leyendo

In addition to the Aprendo Leyendo materials that were reviewed, it is important to note that vital components of the program crucial for successful implementation were not included in this review:

Professional Development: The professional development that is an essential component of the program includes coursework, ongoing support with a coaching model, and workshops. The goal of AL’s professional development is to build teacher knowledge in the science of reading and to explain the rationale for each component of the program. This ensures effective instruction by teachers and successful reading outcomes for students.

The courses are taught in Spanish by master teachers with years of experience teaching AL in schools. The comprehensive teacher training and ongoing support can be tailored to the needs of individual schools and districts.

Aprendo Leyendo Website: Additional resources are available on the AL website. These resources include curriculum-based tests, placement tests, lesson plan forms, homework, and reinforcement activities. AL was created for teachers by teachers. Its online resources are easy to use and teacher-friendly.



In order to support teachers when choosing books to read aloud to students in Spanish, a curated list of recommended authentic books can be found on the [website](#). Read-aloud books allow teachers to present new ideas, complex vocabulary, and thought-provoking text that students cannot yet read themselves. Students build reading comprehension and background knowledge, as well as strengthen language development when listening to and discussing books that are read to them.

In closing, Aprendo Leyendo is always striving to incorporate additional instructional practices that are based on the latest research. The Aprendo Leyendo team appreciates the valuable feedback from The Reading League and will consider the suggested recommendations.

Magdalena Zavalia

Magdalena Zavalia
Aprendo Leyendo



Highlights from The Reading League Review

Phonemic Awareness

"Aprendo Leyendo's instruction attends to work at the phoneme level and students are offered frequent opportunities to practice using phonemes that represent various letters found in the Student Skills Books."

Phonics

"Phonics instruction is systematic and sequential, building from simple letter-sound correspondences to more complex phonic patterns. Letter-sound correspondences are taught systematically and practiced in the Student Skills Books and Decodable Chapter Books."

"The curriculum places great emphasis on instruction at the syllable level. This approach aligns with literacy development in Spanish, where syllable awareness is critical for language mastery."

Vocabulary

"Aprendo Leyendo includes the concept of synonyms and antonyms, multiple-meaning words, and mathematical vocabulary, including ordinal and cardinal numbers and counting by 10s to 100."

AL exposes students to a wealth of vocabulary. As students progress through the program, this vocabulary becomes increasingly sophisticated and intricate, enriching their linguistic repertoire.

Reading Comprehension

"All instruction is teacher-directed."

"Comprehension questions are tied directly to the storyline/plot."

"Strategies for educator use are embedded within the teacher's guide."

"Finally, questioning is utilized as a part of the curriculum, and the program emphasizes varied strategies, including visualizing, retelling, summarizing, making predictions and inferences, re-reading, paraphrasing vocabulary, and interpreting idioms. Additional activities for reading comprehension are also presented in the Teacher's Editions and include activities that target sequencing, cause and effect, and problem and solution."

Handwriting

"Handwriting stood out as one of the curriculum's strongest components, as it is integrated into core reading and writing instruction and follows the sequence of letter learning. The team found ample evidence of direct instruction in and teacher modeling of handwriting."

Spelling

“The spelling scope and sequence is aligned with the phonics/decoding scope and sequence. It is explicit, grows in complexity, and is tied to the text read for both decoding and fluency practice.”

Writing

“Aprendo Leyendo targets foundational transcription skills, like handwriting, spelling, and sentence composition, laying the foundation for teaching expository writing (e.g., capitalization, punctuation, sentence types, conjunctions, sentence structure).”

Decodable Chapter Books

“There is evidence of genre-specific language throughout the program, and Aprendo Leyendo includes both narrative (realistic fiction, fantasy, fairy tales, fables, poetry) and informational text. Students learn about the elements of story grammar, including character, setting, and plot, while students practice reading maps, summarizing facts, and answering questions using information from the text.”

Aprendo Leyendo has a coordinated comprehensive reading series of five chapter books that are beautifully illustrated. They contain coherent and entertaining narratives that have all the basic elements of good storytelling—character, setting, plot, conflict and resolution. All of these elements support instruction in comprehension and reading strategies. Nonfiction selections are included in the series as well.



Check out Aprendo Leyendo's sister English reading program
www.pafprogram.com