



El SOL

El Sistema de Observación de la
Lecto-escritura



Brief History



- Requested by early childhood Spanish bilingual teachers
- Petition with signatures to BOE/DOE
- Acceptance by DOE
- Collaboration between the Division of Assessment and Accountability (DAA) and OBE/OELL
- Advisory Committee
- Book Selection Committee
- Pilot
- The Kit
- Citywide Professional Development
- Training Video
- *Leo y escribo* (Instructional Guide based on El SOL)



El SOL is a **performance assessment** designed to help teachers measure and monitor the literacy development of Spanish bilingual children in grades K through 3. It is designed to help *you* help your students.

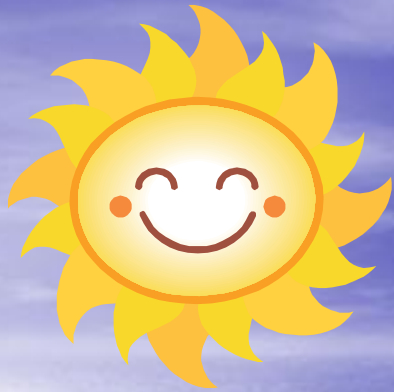


El SOL is **not** a test. It is a **diagnostic tool** that will provide you with information to help you plan appropriate instruction. It will help you look at each child's developmental progress in five strands of literacy skills.

The Strands Are:



- Alphabet/Sight Words
- Phonetic Awareness
- Listening/Speaking
- Reading
- Writing Mechanics



The Alphabet/Sight Words, Reading and Writing Mechanics Strands are divided into six levels of development (called Mastery Levels), along the following continuum:

Level 1: Getting Ready to Read and Write

Level 2: Emergent Reader/Writer

Level 3: Beginning Reader/Writer

Level 4: Developing Reader/Writer

Level 5: Semi-Independent Reader/Writer

Level 6: Independent Reader/Writer



Mastery levels are not linked to specific grade levels, since children progress in literacy at varying rates. A child can be at a different level in each strand (e.g., Level 4 in Reading and Level 2 in Writing Mechanics).



For the **Listening Strand**, the child's performance is assessed with a rubric rating rather than a Mastery Level.



In all of the strands, **EI SOL** will help you identify each child's strengths and needs, and monitor his/her progress in literacy development.

Literacy Development Checklist



A Literacy Development Checklist is provided for each child. The checklist contains:

- Step-by-step directions for administering each activity
- A place to record the results of the assessment
- Your observations of the child's reading/writing strategies and learning styles
- Your ideas for instruction
- Your detailed notes that will guide you and future teachers



The more information you gather during the assessment, the more you will understand each child's literacy strengths/needs and be able to plan appropriate instruction. You will gain valuable information from your first-hand observations, and the children will benefit from having individual time with you. The Checklist and relevant work samples will travel with the child from grade to grade.



Remember that **the purpose** of the assessment is to help you plan instruction based on the needs of the individual child.



The assessment is administered twice a year, in the fall and spring (with the exception of the Listening Strand, which is administered once a year in the fall). Administer the appropriate strands to a child until he/she has accomplished:

- Mastery of Level 6 - Alphabet/Sight Words Strand
- Mastery of Level 6 - Reading Strand
- Mastery of Level 6 - Writing Mechanics Strand
- Mastery of all three Phonetic Awareness activities, or demonstration of significant progress in the Reading Strand by the end of the first grade

A child who has mastered all of the above, regardless of his/her grade level, will no longer be assessed with EL SOL. The Listening Strand is to be administered each fall to every child in K-2 and those in grade 3 who are still being assessed on other strands.

The Kit



- The Kit materials, including the books (which should not be in your classroom library) are to be used only for the assessment. You may wish, however, to develop similar assessment activities using leveled books from your class library as part of your ongoing assessment practices.
- The kit includes:
 - Teacher's Guide
 - Overview of Literacy Development Checklist
 - Student Folders (one per child)
 - Literacy Development Checklist (one per child)
 - Laminated Assessment Sheets
 - Drawing/Writing Pads
 - Books - Listening Strand and Reading Strand

