

100 Useful, Easy Spanish Phrases to Use at Home with Your Baby or While Volunteering Abroad with Children

Simple Commands

1. Siéntate - Sit down.
2. Ven acá - Come here.
3. Acuéstate - Lie down. (*I use this a lot at naptime or when I need to change his diaper.*)
4. Cómetelo - Eat it up.
5. Come - eat (*coma is more forceful*)
6. A comer - Time to eat.
7. Vete por ahí - Go over there. (*Remember that the "h" is silent.*)
8. No la toques - Don't touch it. (*Or No lo toques, depending on whether the article the child wants to touch is masculine "el" or feminine "la."*)
9. No toques - Don't touch.
10. Dame la mano - Give me your hand.
11. Toma mi mano - Take my hand.
12. Ponte los zapatos - Put on your shoes.
13. Con cuidado / Ten cuidado - Be careful.
14. Mira - Look!
15. Roll over - Dale la vuelta. (*When encouraging a young baby to practice rolling over.*)
16. Muy calladito / calladita - Be very quiet.
17. Camina - Walk (*camine would be a more forceful command*)
18. No corras - Don't run.
19. A la cama - Off to bed!
20. Hazlo de nuevo - Do it again.
21. Dime otra vez - Tell me again.

22. Cuéntame - Tell me. *(Like telling a story. I say this encouragingly when Baby J is babbling and sounds as though he's telling an involved baby story!)*
23. Ven a bañarte - Come take a bath. *(duchar is to shower; bañar is to bathe)*
24. Ven a vestirte - Come get dressed.
25. Lávate las manos - Wash your hands.
26. Vámanos - Let's go.
27. Rápido - quickly.
28. Apúrate - Hurry up.
29. Tranquilo/cálmate - Calm down.
30. Abre la boca - Open your mouth.

Simple Requests

1. Ayúdame, por favor - Help me, please. *(I use this a lot as I dress him, asking him to help by pushing his hands through the sleeve, or "entre la manga.")*
2. ¿Te ayudo? - [Do you want me to] help you?
3. Dame un abrazo, por favor - Give me a hug, please?
4. ¿Besitos para mami? - Kisses for Mom?
5. Tráigamelo, por favor - Bring it to me, please.
6. Acércate a mami, por favor - Come closer to Mom, please.
7. No dientes, por favor - No teeth, please.
8. Enséñame, por favor - Show me, please.

Common Questions

1. ¿Tienes hambre? - Are you hungry?
2. ¿Tienes sed? - Are you thirsty?
3. ¿Quieres agua? - Do you want water?
4. ¿Tienes popo? - Do you have a poopy diaper? *(Yes, this is life with a baby. Get used to it. More society-appropriate: ¿Tienes un pañal sucio?)*

5. ¿Necesitas un nuevo pañal? - Do you need a new diaper?
6. ¿Quieres leer? - Do you want to read? (Here's a list of some bilingual books and other resources we use.)
7. ¿Te gusta? - Do you like it?
8. ¿Quieres más? - Do you want more?
9. ¿Acabaste? / ¿Terminaste? - Did you finish? Are you done?
10. ¿Quieres ir con mami/papi? - Do you want to go with Mommy / Papa?
11. ¿Dónde estás? - Where are you?
12. ¿Para dónde vas? - Where are you going?
13. ¿Te duele? - Does that hurt you? / Are you hurting? *(If the child is fussing and you're trying to figure out what's wrong. Another useful phrase is "Me duele" - That hurts me/ I hurt.)*
14. ¿Qué dice? - What does he/she/it say? *(For example, "¿Qué dice el monito?" - "What does a monkey say?")*
15. ¿Te lavaste las manos? - Did you wash your hands?
16. ¿Tienes sueño? / estás cansado/a - Are you tired/sleepy?
17. ¿Qué quieres? - What do you want?
18. ¿Qué pasa? - What's going on? *(I ask this when he is fussing about something and there's obviously nothing wrong.)*
19. ¿Dónde está el otro calcetín? - Where is your other sock? *(Because...kids these days!)*

Polite Spanish Phrases

1. ¿Cómo amaneciste? - How are you this morning/ How did you sleep? *(Literally, a very polite "How did you dawn/rise?")*
2. Buenos días - Good morning.
3. Buenas noches - Good night.
4. ¿Tomaste una buena siesta? - Did you have a good nap?
5. De nada / Con mucho gusto - You're welcome.
6. Por favor - please

7. Qué descansas - Sleep/rest well!
8. Para servirte - At your service

Encouragement

1. Qué bien - really good
2. Buen trabajo - Good job!
3. Tu puedes - You can do it!
4. Bien hecho - Well done!
5. Intenta otra vez - try again.
6. Lo hiciste bien - you did it well!
7. Me gusta - I like it.
8. Eso - that's it!

Endearments

1. mi tesoro - my treasure
2. mi cielito - literally, my little sky. *(For example, Vamos, mi cielito, te acostaré. = Let's go, my darling, and I'll put you to bed.)*
3. mi amiguito - my little buddy/friend *(amiguita is for a little girl)*
4. mi amor - my love *(mi amorcito would be like my little love)*
5. Te amo / te quiero - I love you.

Spanish Phrases/Commands for Older Children

1. Apaga la luz - Turn off the light.
2. Cierre la puerta. - Close the door.
3. Pon la mesa - Set the table.
4. Tiende la cama - Make the bed.

5. Guarda los juguetes - Pick up the toys.
6. Te toca - It's your turn.
7. Me toca - It's my turn.
8. Gané - I won.
9. Ganaste - You won.
10. Cepíllate los dientes - Brush your teeth.
11. Cepíllate el pelo - Brush your hair.
12. Vaya a jugar - Go play.

A Few Common Words Used with Babies

1. guácala – gross, yucky (*Latin American colloquial word I heard often in Honduras - small children often think it sounds funny!*)
2. baba - slobber (*babero is bib, just so you know.*)
3. pañal - diaper (*Actually, in Honduras I usually heard the brand name "Pampers."*)
4. las pompis - bottom (*the "nicer" word for butt*)
5. boquita - little mouth
6. deditos - little fingers
7. limpio - clean
8. sucio - dirty
9. comida - food (leche is milk)
10. cosquillas - tickles (*Quieres cosquillas? - Do you want to be tickled?*)