Spanish Companion Guide

Congratulations on choosing Little Pim Spanish.

This Little Pim Companion Guide is designed to help you with the proper Spanish pronunciation if you want to learn along with your young viewer. Children are visual and aural learners – they watch the screen, hear what’s being said, and easily understand and repeat; and as they repeat after Little Pim the teacher, they will have perfect accents! Adults, however, may need a bit of written help to understand the differences in pronunciation and/or to remember new words.

This guide will give you some tips about the right way to pronounce Spanish letters and words.
If you would like additional support, you can:

- Download our Companion Script, which includes all the words and phrases in Little Pim in Spanish. If you want to read all the words and sentences as they are spoken, you can print this out and follow along with the DVD.

- Choose the optional English Subtitles in the Start Up Menu of the DVD to read English subtitles as you watch

The big picture:

Accents:
- ´ does not change the sound of a letter. This accent tells you which syllable to stress.
- ñ is pronounced like the ny of “canyon”

Vowels:
- a is a short sound in Spanish, and is pronounced like the ea in “heart”. ai is pronounced like the e in “bed”. au is pronounced like the o in “hole”. eu is pronounced like the u in “hurt”
- e is pronounced like the e in “they” in syllables that end with a vowel. Otherwise, it is pronounced like the e in “pet”
- i is pronounced like the ee in “meet”
- o is pronounced like the o in “tote” in syllables that end with a vowel. Otherwise, it is pronounced like the o in “dot”.
- u is pronounced like the u in “tote” or the oo in mood.
- y is pronounced like the ee in “peek” when it is at the end of a word

Consonants:
Spanish is a largely phonetic language, and many Spanish consonants sound like their English counterparts. There are a few exceptions however.
- c is pronounced s in “silent” when it is before an e or an i. Otherwise, it is pronounced like the k in “kid”
- h is always silent in Spanish
- j is pronounced like the ch sound in the Scottish word “loch” – think of the hard guttural sounds of Arabic or Hebrew.
- ll can be pronounced like the ll in “million” OR the y in “yellow” (depending on the region)
- qu is pronounced like the k in “kid”
- n is pronounced like the n in “now”, but is nearly always silent at the end of a word
- r in resonates and is trilled – your tongue should vibrate against the roof of your mouth, kind of like a telephone ringing
- b and v have the exact same pronunciation in Spanish. They are both pronounced like the English letter b, but a little softer.

Notes on Spanish
The only steadfast rule in Spanish is that there is an exception to every rule, so don’t despair if you can’t remember everything!