

# Two years of Spanish school

A couple of years ago we moved to Spain. We live near Barcelona, in the seaside town with a population of about 60 thousand people. Our move took place in August and the school year starts on the 12th of September, so we had a month to arrange three children (3, 6 and 11 years) to school. We went to the local town hall, written statement, specifying the desired two public schools and one concertado (semi-private school where a month of training costs about 150 euros). Private schools for our budget too expensive, so we didn't consider them.

What distinguishes the "concertado" from "Publico"? First of all, the fact that the administration of semi-private schools more autonomy in some matters, and also the fact that these schools are small: one first class, one second, etc.

After a while we got a call from the school, where children are identified — it was just "concertado". I read that these schools have a religious bias, but in our two years I have not noticed anything.

The record itself in school takes place in April. Families who have school-age children, in the mail sent leaflets with description of educational institutions. You can apply only in one school, but in the statement you can specify multiple schools according to the degree of preference.

The school building

## Learn how?

On this map you can see main stages of learning in Spain:

## Learn?

Typically, the school has classes *a child — city hall — high-TV — ESP*, that is, starting to learn in three years at the same school, the child remains in it until 15-16 years. School *a bachelor's degree and diploma* already being called "the Institute".

The school year starts 12th September and ends 21 June: it consists of three trimesters, share Christmas and Easter holidays. The first of September is no different from the average school day: children gather in the schoolyard and going to class. Lines, colors, music, and words of welcome from the deputies there. Dress up quite simply: t-shirts, shorts, sneakers, rare to see someone dressed differently. Teachers wear simple casual clothes too, mostly jeans. Tattoo or piercing is also not uncommon, but refer to it quite easily.

First day of school. Pupils gather in the school yard and climb up to the school. The photo on the right is my son with a teacher.

There is a so-called form with the school logo, which consists of t-shirts and shorts or sport pants. This should be worn on physical education and activities outside of school. The son refused to wear this form, and none of it to him not finding fault.

## Administration

The Director is a very small study, about 2 to 3 meters. There are still people working on documents. And the person who is responsible for the school gate: opens and closes. That's the whole school administration.

## Discipline

Mobile phones are strictly prohibited in elementary school (in the classroom and at recess). In PoE (12+) students can use smartphones. The school has wireless Internet access. If a student prevents others to engage in, may be asked to leave the class, unable to leave without change or ask to wash the toilet. Students turn to teachers, as well as to the Director, on behalf of.

## Schedule

Lessons at school start at 9 am. Older children (ESP) — 8, from Tuesday to Thursday.

The schedule looks like this:

**9-13** tutorials;

**13-15:30** — lunch-Siesta-someone goes home for lunch, some stay in school;

**15:30-17:30** tutorials.

From high school (ESO) the first part of practice is from 8 to 13:30, the rest is the same as in the above schedule. For me this format is convenient because the schedule dependent on school my whole day: if the kids to school takes a husband, I have to take them for lunch, and then take to

school and pick up again in two hours.

At school eat 2 times a day. For Breakfast the kids usually bring sandwiches with ham, croissants, cookies and water. Lunch at school is quite expensive: 6-7 euros. For example, the menu for January (one cell — one day):

Menu the school cafeteria [the spelling of the author saved - approx. ed.]

## Textbooks

Before the beginning of the school year you have a week to be able to buy textbooks. They are quite expensive: for example, a third grader set of books costs about 200 euros, so many people buy books used..

## Languages

In school can speak three languages: Catalan, Spanish and English. But which one is the main, it is not clear at all. We live in Catalonia, which wants to secede from Spain, so the main language here is Catalan: tutorials and documentation are written on it. But children among themselves communicate in Spanish. However, some items once a week are taught in English: one teacher speaks English, the second translates into Catalan. Notice that in the lower grades I think teaching English is very weak, but in high school with a teacher, things are better, and the emphasis is on conversation. In addition, at the end of the year wishing to go to study in England for a week at their own expense.

## Evaluation

Spain ten-point grading system. In the younger grades usually write "dinner to be!" or "great!" "genial" etc. In elementary school there is homework, but not every day. But in high school (ESO) a lot to ask, and most of all the homework associated with writing essays.

Grades for the trimester are issued in these envelopes — all very confidential:

The envelopes with the assessments for trimestrielle per trimester: overall rating of the subject and clarification of what constitutes a.

## Diaries

Strange, but in the school where my children attend, there are electronic diaries. The relationship "teacher — parents" is carried out via email and paper student diary (agenda). Put marks for the journal not .

Diary of a second grader and sixth grader over there. With a red marker recording a second grader teacher: "Congratulations on the good work in class and the dictation in Catalan. You wrote brilliant!".

## The duration of the lesson sitting on the floor

Lesson duration is one hour. After one class from the other begins. There is a large thirty-minute recess time, when students face the street ("party"). There, on the street, eating everything, sitting on the concrete, and sit in any weather. Parents are not against sitting on the floor, too: in the school holidays they can be found there.

By the way, the school yards have very poor decorated concrete floor and a couple of fixtures for sports. Recently read the news that the government plans to invest in landscaping the school patio — it would be good!

School holidays(source: )

## Lessons

### Infantil

What in Russia is called kindergarten. It's preparation for school: kids learn to count, write letters, play, talk, draw, go to the pool.

In the Spanish routine of preschool groups is as follows: professor/RA (the teacher) greets children at the door of the group and kissed each child, simultaneously praising him and admiring them. I am very impressed that in Spain a lot of praise children. And not only children: the employees of supermarkets, and just strangers turn to each other very tenderly — "my dear / darling", "handsome / beautiful", "Queen / king"... It's a little funny, but very cute.

In school, the parents usually don't come expecting children in the street outside the gate. A parent meeting is held early in the year, and at the end of the year class teacher meets with each parent individually.

The schedule preschoolers (4 years)

Monday begins with the students rotllana: children sit on the floor in a circle and talk about yourself or how was your weekend.

Classes in preschool: rotllana, a games room and a visit to fire school.([enõî=-îê:facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/rotllana))Lessons from a four-year([enõî=-îê:facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/rotllana))

Next comes Breakfast, followed by a walk, physical training, the evening can be drawing. There are items such as computer science, English, experiments with water, sand, light and music. The teacher sings a lot — for example, when you collect the toys when the children assomada, etc. In the schedule there is a lesson associated with the cultivation of plants, flowers, berries. Last year the children went to the farm, and after that, the school brought in the chick who lived in the families of the students for a few days.

Classes at four-year old(source:)(source:)the School day in infantile(source:)(source:)

Children are taught to perseverance and self-reliance. The school year ends "colonies" is something like a camp. Children as young as 3 years, leaving teachers in a place located in 1-1,5 hour drive from school, and there they spend three days and two nights.

## Younger children (6-11 years)

Schedule pervoklassnitsa second graders

The schedule is as follows:

- Physics — physical culture
- Party for change Breakfast
- Copper — the world
- The angles of copper — the world English
- Hort — work in the garden
- Plastic — creativity
- Catala — Catalan
- Castella — Spanish

Second-graders added a digital (computer science), experiments, lessons, which discuss different topics (PARLEM-NS), and there is more English.

Classes in the second grade. (source:)(source:)

When the son finished first grade, his teacher saying that until children become second graders, left to do one step, stood on the Desk and then crossed to the other.

Learning is project format: study Ancient Egypt and make pyramids out of paper and present ourselves in the way of the pharaohs; read about Ancient Rome — creating a castle; learn the five senses — try foods of different taste, walk around the yard with a blindfold; in the fall learn how harvested as the grapes going to the winery to see how wine is made; the study of fishes — the class has an aquarium, visit aquarium, study the architecture, admire the creations of Gaudi, go to the Park gell.

## Senior classes (ESP, 12+)

Schedule of classes 12-year-old

In addition to the three languages and physical education, studied biology and geography, history, art, music, math games, math games, technology, also has a lesson dedicated to the discussion of different problems (ethics), and the activity connected with Informatics (flash digicrea).

Music lesson in the class of 12-year-old(source:)(source:)

In my opinion, schools a little reading. During the year the students get acquainted with five books: two in Spanish, two in Catalan, one in English. During the school year there is also a practice of exchanging books from the home library, and discuss favorite works.

## The year-end holidays!

One of the customs of the Spanish school students pour water in the school yard. On the final week before the holidays usually watch movies, eat popcorn, and at the last day of school teacher treat kids ice cream.

## A bit of good and bad

In Homeschooling of Spain: under Spanish law, children from 6 to 16 years must attend school. However, according to the newspaper "El Pais" (2017), the country is about 4 thousand families, in which children learn at home.

I want to quote from the article about home education to show that they themselves, the Spaniards blamed their school (although, perhaps, these reasons are universal for any country):

*"Public school does not account for the different rhythms of children and their problems: each simultaneously teaches the same thing. In the educational system to easily enter and exit difficult. <...> School destroys the interests that arise in childhood, disappears desire to learn, because there is no factor of surprise, explore the motivating".*

As for me, among my, subjective downsides Spanish educational [cheap essay writing service usa](#) institutions often view films at school and a kind of Esprit de corps: the lesson of the misbehaved one, but the change passed all.

But the advantages of Spanish schools is undeniable, and a lot of them: respect for students, equality in the relationship "student — teacher", with the exception of the educational policy process, friendly attitude to the child, freedom of expression and a lot of creativity.