

Assessments of language proficiency

The assessments given in the in-home interviews (years 1-3) were the BEST Plus (listening comprehension) and the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT). In addition, in the classroom, students were given the BEST Literacy test and the CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System).

		2002	2003	2004	2005
			6/20/2003	4/28/2004	6/27/2005
BEST Plus (listening/speaking)			401 (low beginning)	497 (high intermediate)	487 (high intermediate)
PPVT	Raw score		58	117	115
vocabulary	Age equivalence		4.5	9	8.75
BEST literacy			8/12/2003	2/26/2004	
			SPL* V (high intermediate)	SPL VI (high intermediate)	
CASAS (listening)			5/22/2003		
			214 (high intermediate)		
*SPL= Student performance level					
V and VI= “ Individual can read text on familiar subjects that have a simple and clear underlying structure (e.g., clear main idea, logical order). Can use word analysis skills and context clues to determine meaning with texts on familiar subjects. Individual can write simple paragraphs with main idea and supporting details on familiar topics (e.g., daily activities, personal issues) by recombining learned vocabulary and structures. Can self-and peer-edit for spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.”					

These standardized assessment measures show quite a dramatic improvement in Arcadia’s scores in both word recognition (PPVT) and listening/speaking (BEST Plus) from 2003 to 2004. This is likely due to the fact that she had studied English a bit at some time while still living in Mexico. The one year of instruction (April 2003-June 2004) may have activated previous learning while allowing for new learning as well. The record of Arcadia’s reading (in the reading inventory below) shows that out of classroom engagement with English also may have contributed to that learning. When she began working full time (in later 2004) we see that the time she spent reading in English dropped significantly.

	2003	
Reading in English	For obligation	For pleasure
Minutes per week	540	105

2004	
For obligation	For pleasure
360	105

2005	
For obligation	For pleasure
4	70