

# Language Links



## Information about Children's Spanish Immersion Programs

### What is Language Links?

Language Links is dedicated to providing your child with a quality foreign language immersion program. Small groups of students are immersed in Spanish in a natural environment using an assortment of engaging activities to meet the needs of all students learning styles and levels. Spanish is taught in a fun, repetitive, and progressively challenging manner using a multi-sensory approach which incorporates authentic Latino and Spanish music, dance, games, projects, skits, dialogues, and arts & crafts. Our unique approach maximizes a child's "window of opportunity" or what linguists and doctors refer to as a child's "critical period" for flexible cognitive development.

### Why study language at an early age?

Children's brains are best suited for learning a second language. Linguists refer to the ages from birth to age eight as the "critical period" for acquiring language with native like fluency and pronunciation. Young children are able to absorb a second language as they are exposed to it in an enjoyable, repetitive, interactive, and natural environment. Children will quickly imitate and produce new accents and sentence patterns within the second language simultaneously developing cognitive flexible abilities.

### Are all children in the program at the same level?

No. Children of all levels thrive on the interactive communicative approach to language learning. Classes are designed to meet students at their level of learning within each class. Language Links believes in challenging individual students through activities that address multiple learning styles while respecting and allowing students to learn at a pace that is both fun and safe for them.

### What can I expect my child to learn?

Beginner students respond immediately to the interactive multi-modal methods used as they first absorb and respond to language cues. Children are then able to produce short responses to questions, identify various objects, and follow classroom, arts & crafts, and game instructions all in the target language. Students are also able to sing along with and act out the lyrics to traditional Spanish and Latino songs that they receive on their language CD's each session. As students feel comfortable they become the verbal leaders and cue givers in games and activities. With the completion of each program students build on these skills moving closer to proficiency. At this stage students will begin to produce language with more creativity and depth eventually creating and presenting dialogues and skits.

### Curriculum

- Language is taught in an immersion environment through music, dance, dialogues, games, skits, stories, projects, arts and crafts. Curriculum is designed on an individual class basis to meet the needs of the students within each class.
- Students will receive a language CD "el disco compacto" based on their age and ability. The songs contained on this CD are the basis for their curriculum. Generally, there are 10 - 15 songs per CD. The CD is included in the cost of the program
- Older students are responsible for creating dialogues, skits, collages and books in Spanish. Occasionally, elementary students are also asked to complete work sheets and projects at home developing writing and reading skills in Spanish.

### Class structure:

- Class begins with "circulo grande" where students have a language warm-up with Simon says - "Maria dice" and "Los Saludos" Greetings and introductions.
- New songs are introduced using: visuals/posters, body movements, and music. We act out and sing the songs on our CD's. Learning through songs allows students to acquire a fluidity and proper pronunciation in Spanish. Most children love to sing and dance so learning in this manner gives them an immediate feeling of success in their second language.
- Reinforcing vocabulary: Manipulative - vocabulary is taken from the song and reinforced through games such as memory, go fish, hide and seek, puzzles, or an arts and crafts project or a related story.
- Review - every class we go back and review songs that have already been introduced.
- We ask that students try to listen to their Spanish CD's 5 times a week "cinco veces cada semana". Student's that listen to their CD's feel more confident singing and participating in language games during.

### What can I expect my child to learn?

- Children are able to sing along with and act out the lyrics to traditional Spanish and Latino songs within weeks.
- Students are able to produce short responses to questions, identify various objects, and follow classroom, arts & crafts, and game instructions **all in Spanish!**
- Students quickly become the verbal leaders and cue-givers in games and activities.
- Advanced students produce short dialogues and skits.
- Elementary students also learn to read and spell with accurate pronunciation and comprehension.
- The completion of each program shows students building on listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills while moving closer and closer to proficiency in a second language.

### How can I reinforce language learning at home?

- Students are asked to listen to their language CD's five times per week. This is considered their Spanish homework and they will receive stars "estrellas" on their "placas" based on the number of times that they listen to their CD. Students who listen to their CD's regularly show a noticeable difference of language confidence during class.
- Songs are introduced using body movements to act out the lyrics and reinforced with a variety of games and activities. Encourage your child to teach you or a sibling the body movements and games that accompany the songs. At the beginner level it is easier for your child to **show** you the meaning of language rather than to tell you with a direct verbal translation.
- Worksheets - Older students will occasionally receive worksheets that coincide with thematic vocabulary. Worksheets help to develop students writing and reading skills. Students are not graded on this work however if they bring completed worksheets back to class they will be corrected and they will receive additional stars on their "placas".
- In class, students need to ask for everything in Spanish. At home you could choose a time of day when your child has to ask for everything in Spanish also.
- Por favor pasame la leche. = Please pass me the milk.
- Me gustaría una galleta = I would like one cookie.
- Me gustaría dos galletas, por favor. = I would like two cookies please. (Plural object)
- ¿Qué necesitas? = What do you need
- Necesito un lápiz. = I need a pencil

- Quiero jugar con Elena. = I want to play with Elena.
  - Quiero usar la crayola roja, por favor. = I want to use the red crayon, please.
  - Gracias = Thank you
  - De nada = Your welcome
- Encourage your child to keep a list, a small notebook, or index cards of words or expressions that he or she would like to learn and use at home. Students may bring these cards to class and we will review new words and expressions.

### Schedules

- Programs run for 10 weeks in the Fall, Winter and Spring.
- All classes meet once a week for 1 hour.
- Classes do not meet on holidays or during February & April vacations.
- Spanish Immersion Programs are offered during February, April and Summer Vacations in Falmouth.
- Enrollment will be handled in the order in which it is received.

### Age Guidelines

The ages suggested on the schedule are a guideline. Many parents want siblings to take classes together. We try to accommodate this as much as possible.

### Tuition

- Tuition includes The Language Immersion Program, Spanish lyric CD, all Class Materials and Registration.
- ◆ 8 week program = \$185.00
- ◆ 10 week program = \$225.00
- February & April Vacation Camps
- ◆ February Vacation Camp = \$150.00 (Tue - Fri: 9:00 - 12:00)
- ◆ April Vacation Camp = \$150.00 (Tue - Fri: 9:00 - 12:00)
- Adult Classes 8 weeks 1.5 hours. Text optional (not included in price of class). \$240.00

### Waiting

- Parents are not required to wait. Generally new parents wait around the first couple of classes then most go grocery shopping or running.

### Registration

- Registration is complete when a registration form and full tuition are received.
- Registration will be handled in the order in which it is received.
- Personal checks or cash are accepted.
- Please mail registration to Language Links @ P.O. Box 398, Falmouth, MA 02541.