

Bilingual Roots Academy™

A METHOD FOR BUILDING MEANINGFUL SPANISH

Our core idea

Bilingual Roots Academy supports children who are **starting Spanish from zero** as well as children who have already been exposed to the language but need support to use it with greater confidence and independence.

A child's starting point is based on **what they understand and can do in Spanish**, not on their family background.

Understand → participate → speak → communicate

How children learn

Learning develops through **meaningful context, repetition, play, guided interaction and real-life language**. We make language understandable first, then create purposeful opportunities to use it.

The three levels

1 · EXPLORERS

From complete beginners to children who understand some Spanish but still produce very little.

Goal: build meaning, comprehension and first independent language.

Children may: point, choose, respond through actions or gestures and progressively use single words.

Support: visuals, gestures, modelling, choice-based questions, purposeful repetition and predictable routines.

Progress when: they understand familiar language and begin using words with less support.

2 · BUILDERS

Children have active vocabulary and begin combining it to communicate simple needs, actions and ideas.

Goal: expand active vocabulary and build short, functional phrases.

Children may: use patterns such as «quiero ____», «me pongo ____» or «tengo ____».

Focus: verbs, sentence patterns and combining familiar vocabulary.

Progress when: they form short phrases with decreasing support.

3 · STORYTELLERS

Children use Spanish more independently to explain, describe, sequence and share ideas.

Goal: expand and connect sentences to communicate with greater precision.

Children may: produce simple sentences and short sequences.

Focus: sentence expansion, open-ended questions, description and storytelling.

Progress when: they communicate ideas and experiences with increasing independence.

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What a session looks like

The structure is predictable and reassuring. **Children can share the same theme while the level of support and language demand changes.**

1

Welcome and retrieval

We reactivate familiar language so learning is cumulative.

2

New language in context

A small set of words and expressions is introduced through meaningful situations: breakfast, getting dressed, play, going to school...

3

Comprehension before production

Children can show understanding by pointing, choosing, acting or responding.

4

Guided speaking

Explorers receive more visual support; Builders combine words; Storytellers expand and explain.

5

Stories, songs and play

We recycle the same language in different ways to strengthen understanding, memory and participation.

6

Early reading when ready

Sounds, patterns and familiar words create a bridge between spoken and written Spanish.

7

Transfer to home

We finish with one short, practical way to use the language in everyday family life.

One situation, three levels

EXPLORERS	BUILDERS	STORYTELLERS
«zapatos»	«Me pongo los zapatos.»	«Primero me pongo los calcetines y después los zapatos.»

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Families + Bilingual Roots

Families **do not need to become Spanish teachers**. Bilingual Roots Academy designs and sequences the learning; the adult helps Spanish move beyond the resource and into real moments in the child's life.

When Spanish also means playing, reading, singing or sharing a moment together, the language becomes meaningful to the child.

What if parents do not speak Spanish?

They can still take part. Adult guidance should be **clear, brief and bilingual when needed**. A few minutes of guided interaction can meaningfully reinforce the week's learning.

Small moments that matter

01	Read a short story together
02	Listen to a song and repeat one expression
03	Use one phrase during a daily routine
04	Play with the week's vocabulary
05	Celebrate communication attempts

Consistency is more powerful than intensity.

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How progress is observed

We do not only count how many words a child knows. We observe **what they understand, retrieve and increasingly use independently.**



Comprehension

Responds to familiar instructions and language.



Active vocabulary

Uses words rather than only recognising them.



Combination

Begins joining words and sentence patterns.



Independence

Needs progressively less modelling or support.



Retrieval

Reuses language learned in previous weeks.



Confidence

Participates and takes risks when communicating in Spanish.

Outcome

The method provides a structured pathway from a child's first contact with Spanish to increasingly active and independent use.

Spanish becomes more than something the child learns - it becomes part of their life.

Bilingual Roots Academy

Meaningful Spanish for children growing up in English-speaking environments - whether they are starting from zero or already live with the language.