

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.

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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.

The learning pathway

The three levels describe how a child is currently using Spanish. They are not tied to a fixed number of weeks. A child can remain an Explorer across more than one learning cycle while vocabulary, comprehension and first sentence patterns continue to grow.

EXPLORER

understand
recognise
respond
use words
begin combining

BUILDER

combine words
use patterns
answer
describe
short phrases

STORYTELLER

expand
sequence
explain
tell stories
communicate independently

Progression is based on competence, not completion.

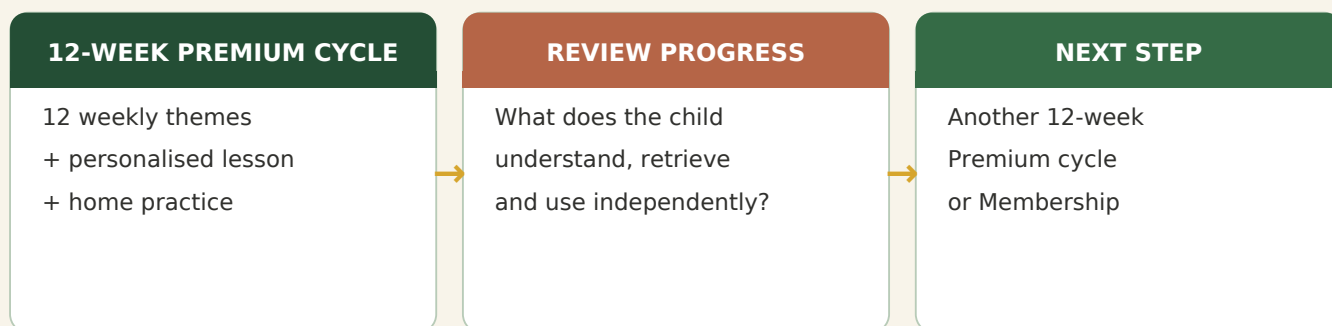
A child moves towards Builder when they begin combining familiar vocabulary into short, functional phrases with decreasing support. They move towards Storyteller when they increasingly connect sentences and communicate ideas or experiences more independently.

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Premium: 12-week learning cycles

Premium is organised into 12-week cycles. Each week introduces a different meaningful theme. Across the cycle, children expand vocabulary and comprehension while previously learned language is deliberately retrieved, recycled and connected to new language.



A 12-week cycle is a learning block, not a level.

Completing 12 weeks does not automatically move a child from Explorer to Builder or from Builder to Storyteller.

How an Explorer can progress across the year

An Explorer may complete several Premium cycles. New themes broaden the child's vocabulary and comprehension, while useful sentence frames are introduced gradually so that familiar words can begin to be combined.

Cycle 1	Greetings • Family • Breakfast • Getting dressed • Bedtime • Feelings	Build meaning, comprehension, confidence and active vocabulary.
Cycle 2	Animals • Body • Nature • Weather • Food • Community	Expand vocabulary and introduce or recycle useful sentence frames.
Cycle 3	Shopping • Home • Daily choices • Friendship • Travel	Use familiar language with greater independence and combine words into functional phrases.

When the child can increasingly build and use short functional phrases, the teaching demand shifts towards Builder. The change happens because the child's communication has changed - not because a particular cycle has ended.

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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.

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 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

«zapatos»

BUILDERS

«Me pongo los zapatos.»

STORYTELLERS

«Primero me pongo los calcetines
y después los zapatos.»

Within Premium, personalisation also happens inside a level. Two Explorers can work on the same theme while receiving different language demands.

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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. In the **Premium Program**, parents who do not speak Spanish receive **direct support from me**. Each week, they receive a short video introducing the relevant **Spanish phonemes** and modelling how to pronounce the words and phrases their children are learning. This helps parents support practice at home with confidence, even when they are learning alongside their child.

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. Premium provides personalised 12-week learning cycles within that pathway; Membership offers an ongoing route for families who want to continue building Spanish at home.

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