



# How to Get Started



## Teacher's Guide

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## Program Overview

This program is based on an 8-part video series created to give children a foundation in day-to-day Spanish conversation that they will be able to use in their lives, whether for personal enrichment, professional advancement, or both. It is also intended to spark an interest in children and to provide a positive first exposure to foreign language learning, which we believe is essential for young students if they are to enjoy and succeed with foreign language.

The video series starts at 8:00 a.m. at breakfast and ends at 8:00 p.m. at bedtime, a supposed typical weekend day of a family. However, within moments, viewers realize that the day will not be an ordinary one, as the stories in the videos feature a colorful set of characters, including the family dogs, a surprise filled story-line, lots of humor, graphics, animation and upbeat music. In this way, viewers get the benefit of learning practical Spanish but in a way that is engaging and leaves viewers curious as to what may happen next.

To accommodate different learning styles and preferences, the videos are supplemented by a variety of optional activities found in our workbooks, sticker sets, flashcards with extended learning activities, hands-on board game and app, and interactive, online quizzes and games. While the supplemental workbooks provide some grammar-based activities, this program is not intended as a reading or writing Spanish course. Most of us acquired our first language by experiencing life with others and learning to understand the words around us through context. We believe this is the most natural and useful way to learn a foreign language as well. Moreover, we feel that language is its most rewarding when related to a connection among people. This video series is designed to simulate the way that children's first language is developed: Using their minds to figure out meanings through context and clues related to common experiences. We believe that this approach has the added benefits of facilitating language retention as well as developing the language center of the brain since viewers are learning through immersion.

## Program Goals

One goal of this program is to help children start to feel comfortable with the Spanish language, so that ultimately they are able to converse with confidence and without feeling self-conscious. To achieve this goal, we start with this video series which was created in part to provide viewers with an opportunity to "live and experience" life in a Spanish-speaking household as closely as possible without actually being in one. One of our students emailed us, saying "I felt like I was at the kitchen table with the boys during breakfast." We hope your students have a similar experience.



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Most children will be introduced to hearing Spanish immersion the first time with these videos. At first, the language will sound strange and foreign but since the language is presented using immersion, we have found that relatively quickly the videos will train the ear of the student to the sounds of the Spanish language.

Each video ends with a "Rapid Review" when viewers will see most images from the story, followed by a short delay, and then the Spanish words appear on the screen. This delay was done deliberately to give students a chance to say aloud the Spanish words before they appear.

The Rapid Review Challenge ("RRC") activity is the last video on each level on the Membership and on the new edition of the DVDs (if you have a previous edition DVD, use the Rapid Review at the end of the last video, following the directions here). Since the videos build on each other, the RRC is a teacher's barometer as to when students are ready to advance to the next level. **When students can do about 90% of the words in the RRC, they are ready to advance to the next level.** Don't let students call out English words during the RRC. Students may need to do the RRC multiple times before reaching this goal, which is expected. If students advance before being able to achieve this, they may experience frustration, which is exactly the opposite of what we are trying to do. We want students to enjoy Spanish and feel empowered and confident.

Playing the Rapid Review Game is a fun way for a student to test him or herself. This is a rewarding activity for parents, teachers and students alike. At first, a student starts being able to call out only a few words, knows more each time, and finally knows most, if not all, of them!

Before students advance to the next video, consider asking them to think about when, only a short time ago, they did not know these words in Spanish, or maybe any Spanish at all. They are moving along and should feel good about their progress!

Repetition is critical when learning a new language. Children learn at different speeds, so feel free to adjust the pace for your students, but we recommend erring on the side of moving slowly. The Rapid Review will help you decide the appropriate pace for your students.



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## About This Guide

1. The guide is broken into lessons. We will walk you through everything you need to do for your lesson and how to teach the program. We suggest doing at least one lesson twice a week. If you don't know any Spanish, DON'T PANIC! Most of the learning is done through the videos and supplements. This guide is here to help you with extended games and activities so that you are equipped to teach Spanish.
2. Watching the videos and doing the Rapid Review Game are the mandatory part of the schedule. All other activities are optional to give you ideas of extended learning options.
3. The time listed is an estimate and includes completion of your daily activities and optional learning extensions. If you only do the lessons and Rapid Review Game, it will take less time than indicated.
4. We suggest not allowing students to watch ahead unless planned with your permission.
5. A list of the Spanish words taught and their translations are shown for each lesson. Words in **bold** are new words taught in that lesson. We strongly suggest that you do not tell students the word translations. The teaching method is more meaningful and beneficial if students work out the meanings for themselves. We find that watching it repetitively until they come to that on their own helps them to remember it for a longer time.
6. Before watching the videos the first few times, please tell students that they are not expected to understand everything. They should follow the story for the general meaning and not to be concerned if there are parts of the story or words they do not understand. As long as every time they watch, they are understanding more, they are doing great! When they are interested in what is going on in the storyline, the learning will naturally follow.
7. The video summary is intended for the teacher/parent. In general we don't suggest sharing it with your student unless you feel it is necessary to reduce frustration. This is up to you.

## Questions? We're Here to Help!

Feel free to contact us anytime with questions, comments or to set up a consultation to discuss the best approach for using this program with your students. Email us at [info@foreignlanguagesforkids.com](mailto:info@foreignlanguagesforkids.com) or call us at 301.299.8000.

