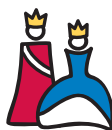




**THE ROYAL CROWN PROGRAM™
FOR EDUCATORS**



isabella & ferninand™
SPANISH LANGUAGE ADVENTURES™

Isabella & Ferdinand Spanish Language Adventures™ Curriculum: Thematic-Based Language Learning

*“Thematic-based teaching captures students’ imaginations, is perceived as important to both teachers and learners, legitimizes the disciplinary content that is integrated into the instruction, accommodates a variety of learning approaches and has the added value of increased student motivation and improved attitude towards learning.”
(Jensen & Sandrock, 2005)*

At Isabella & Ferdinand Spanish Language Adventures™, we are passionate about *español* and have designed our Spanish language immersion program for young children to learn the best standard of Spanish spoken today in an engaging, culturally rich format. Through this type of thematic-based learning, children are not only exposed to the critical fundamentals of Spanish—vocabulary, sentence and phrase construction, grammar, oral and written comprehension, proper pronunciation, writing skills, etc.—but are simultaneously immersed into the context of the Spanish-speaking world—the countries where Spanish is spoken, their histories, culture, art, literary canon, traditions and natural environment. As research has shown, this makes Spanish learning not only more interesting and fun for children, but ultimately enables them to accelerate their language fluency and deepen their linguistic understanding.

Isabella & Ferdinand teaches children Spanish through a comprehensive curriculum with specific linguistic objectives as well as thematic learning objectives related to the art, literature and culture of Spain and Latin America. Primarily designed for children ages 3-9 years of age, the curriculum is organized into a series of Isabella & Ferdinand Lesson Plans™, which communicate language fundamentals through the exploration of cultural topics (e.g., Cervantes’ “Don Quijote”, Picasso, the Taíno Indians, etc). Each series of 8-10 Isabella & Ferdinand Lesson Plans™ is grouped under a broader cultural theme such as “The Age of Exploration in Spain”, “The Golden Age of Spain”, “A Tour through Spain and Latin America” and/or “Cultural Heroes of the Spanish-Speaking World”. Each series of 8-10 Lesson Plans under these broader themes is considered an Isabella & Ferdinand Learning Unit. Each Lesson Plan can be taught in 60-90¹ minutes. Three (3) Learning Units of Isabella & Ferdinand Lesson Plans span an entire academic year. Figure 1.1 illustrates how the thematic units are organized, with the Isabella & Ferdinand Learning Gems™, core learning concepts and cultural themes serving as the foundation.

¹ For example, an Isabella & Ferdinand Lesson Plan™ can be taught in one class for 60 minutes or broken down into 3 thirty (30) minute classes.





ISABELLA & FERDINAND SPANISH LANGUAGE ADVENTURES™ | UNIT 1

Unit 1A: The Golden Age of Spain	Unit 1B: Tour through Latin America and Spain	Unit 1C: Cultural Heroes of the Spanish Speaking World
Lesson Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spain Don Quijote de la Mancha Cristobal Colón The Taíno Indians Diego Velázquez and Las Meninas Hernan Cortés El Día de los muertos 	Lesson Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina Colombia Perú Cuba Mexico 	Lesson Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rafael Pombo Federico García Lorca and Rubén Darío Cervantes Juan Ramón Jiménez Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo Pablo Picasso Fernando Botero Joan Miró
Cultural Themes		
Isabella & Ferdinand Learning Gems		
Isabella & Ferdinand Core Concepts		

FIGURE 1.1

The linguistic component of the Isabella & Ferdinand curriculum is based on the standards of the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and those of the Plan Curricular of the Instituto Cervantes in Madrid, Spain, established by the government of Spain and widely recognized as the global authority on the Spanish language². The curriculum is aligned with the National Standards for Foreign Language Education³. Our innovative, researched-based approach to learning was developed and tested in our language center in Washington, D.C. We worked with curriculum experts who have designed bilingual curricula for the State of Texas and the State of California, and have designed Spanish language learning content for Scholastic and McMillan. We also worked closely with an educator from the Center for Applied Linguistics in developing our teacher training and methods.

Linguistic and cultural learning objectives in the Isabella & Ferdinand Lesson Plans are guided by the Isabella & Ferdinand Learning Gems™, an innovative teaching system we developed that makes teaching to a variety of learning styles fun and easy.

² Based in Madrid, Spain, the Instituto Cervantes is a worldwide non-profit organization created by the Spanish government in 1991 to disseminate a standard level of Spanish and to promote the study of the Spanish cultural canon. It is the largest and most respected organization in the world responsible for promoting the study and the teaching of Spanish language and culture. Isabella & Ferdinand Spanish Language Adventures is a member of the Instituto Cervantes.

³ A collaborative project of ACTFL, AATF, AATG, AATI, AATSP, ACL, ACTR, CLASS and NCJLT-ATJ that represents a consensus among educators, business leaders, government, and the community on the definition and role of foreign language instruction in American education.

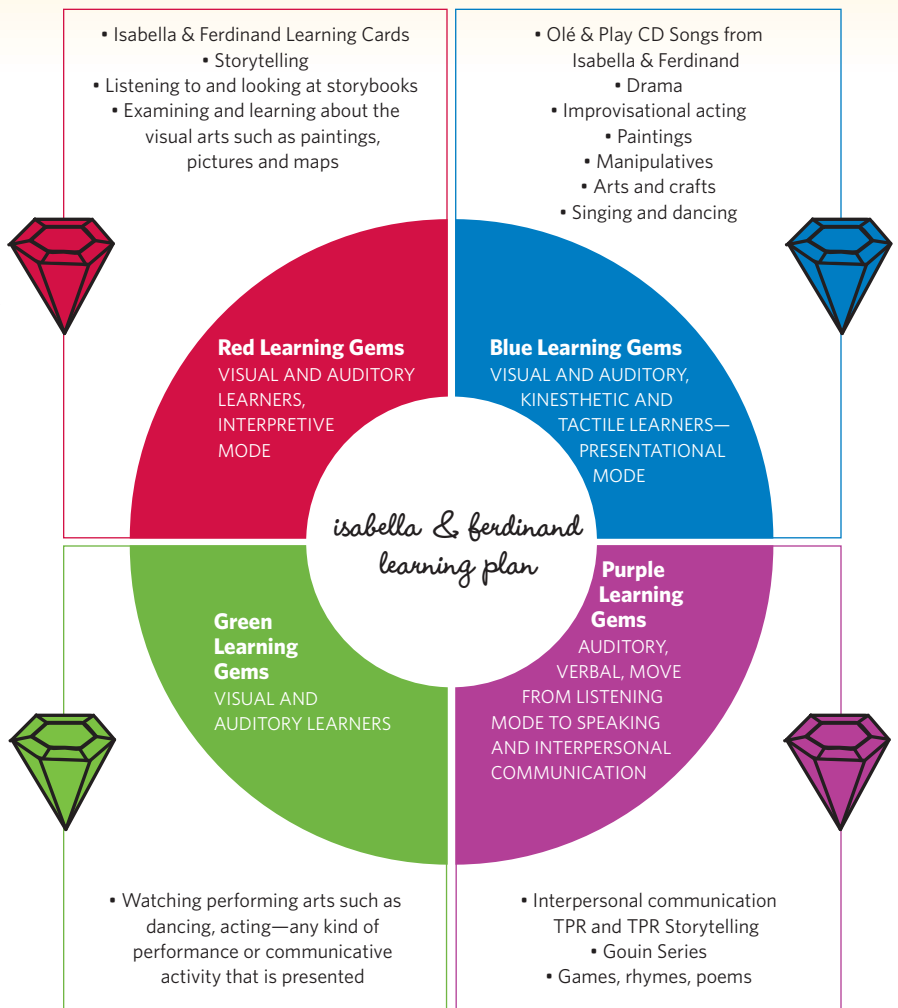


FIGURE 1.2



Linguistic Excellence Through Cultural Understanding

“On a concrete level the culture-boundedness of a language can be illustrated by the existence in its vocabulary of a term for a word that does not exist in another language because the object is unknown to its speakers... [Accordingly], a language learner who can empathize with his or her interlocutors and recognize the culture-boundedness of each language would be better able to learn the new language than one who cannot.”

—James L. Citron, University of Pennsylvania

Linguistic and cultural learning are seamlessly integrated in the Isabella & Ferdinand curriculum. For example, a student will learn to say her colors and shapes in Spanish as she studies the art of Pablo Picasso or learn to use certain action verbs in Spanish while she learns about Christopher Columbus' perilous voyage to the Americas on the high seas. This allows children to fully enter the Spanish-speaking world rather than translating from (American/English) references or texts that are not native to that world.



ISABELLA & FERDINAND LEARNING GEMS™

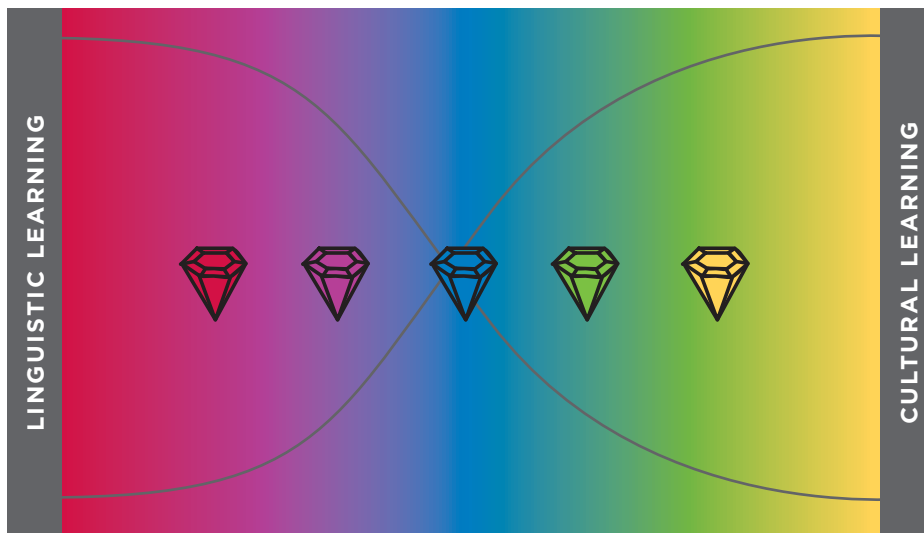


FIGURE 1.3



Isabella & Ferdinand Royal Crown Program™ for Educators

Isabella & Ferdinand Spanish Language Adventures™ is now offering its program and curriculum to the teachers of Spanish language nationwide. Through the Royal Crown Program, teachers are not only provided with our curriculum, teaching materials and visual aids but are actually trained and walked through how to implement the program, modifying it to suit their needs. Using the Isabella & Ferdinand Learning Gems™ system, educators are provided with a set of learning activities designed to teach or reinforce certain linguistic concepts in the classroom. The activities proposed under our Isabella & Ferdinand Learning Gems™ system are proven to be effective tools in teaching the same language concepts to a variety of different types of learners. At the same time, the Learning Gems system is flexible enough to allow teachers to add their own ideas or substitute other activities as long as the substitution meets the criteria of the relevant Learning Gem and remains germane to the topic of the Learning Plan.

Additionally, the Isabella & Ferdinand Spanish curriculum can be adapted to a variety of learning environments and for students at different levels of speaking Spanish, whether they are first-time learners of the language or relatively fluent speakers who need more cultural and grammatical instruction. All of our Lesson Plans are designed to be taught in an immersion setting using little to no English in the classroom. Visuals, TPR⁴ and music in particular are important tools in our teaching methodology.

An initial measure, teaching tasks and objectives within the Isabella & Ferdinand curriculum are classified according to age groups as are our classes in Washington, D.C. Castile Cavaliers (CC) is for Spanish learners ages 3-4, Aragon Adventurers (AA) is for students ages 5-6 and Madrid Musketeers (MM) is for students ages 7-9. However, based upon a child's level of fluency he/she may follow guidance for a level higher than that of his corresponding age. Our Learning Gems system, at each age level, works together with the ACTFL standards. Isabella & Ferdinand, through its programming, seeks to use the standards as a guideline for our younger classes to build a foundation for early language that builds towards the 4th grade standard used by the National Standards. The principle goal is of course, grade level fluency.

As the ages of children in each class increases, so do the number and complexity of core concepts taught in the Isabella & Ferdinand Curriculum. The principle idea in each of these core concepts is that children of different ages are capable of exploring and defining different ideas in language learning. The Isabella & Ferdinand Learning Gems System aligns itself to meeting the ACTFL standards, but also establishing a foundation of these important concepts and central ideas to create a robust cultural learning curriculum.

⁴ Total Physical Response (TPR) is a well-respected language teaching method developed by Dr. James J. Asher, a professor emeritus of psychology at San José State University. The method relies on the assumption that when learning a second or additional language, children internalize language through a process of code-breaking similar to first language development, based on responding to physical commands. In using TPR while teaching Spanish with the Isabella & Ferdinand curriculum, teachers should use movement and expressions to communicate meaning rather than translating words or phrases into English.

Contact us regarding the Isabella & Ferdinand Royal Crown Program™ at: info@isabellaandferdinand.com and get your students started on a high-caliber and engaging Spanish language program today!



KEY ELEMENTS AND BENEFITS OF THE ISABELLA & FERDINAND CURRICULUM

- ✓ Incorporates the ACTFL standards that develop interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication, compares and contrasts different cultures within the Spanish-speaking world, shares information and connects learners to a language community in a real or virtual manner;
- ✓ Is research-based, of high interest, age and level appropriate;
- ✓ Incorporates authentic (non-translated) Spanish language materials and the use of technology;
- ✓ Promotes the development of critical thinking skills;
- ✓ Allows students to experience the rich and diverse language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world and identify positive role models within that world. This leads to decreased stereotyping and increased global thinking and awareness for students;
- ✓ Allows students to begin to see the purpose of language study as something with real world-value and life-long advantages; and
- ✓ Helps develop a sense of pride with Heritage (and non-Heritage) learners alike, as they study the Spanish language in the context of the world's great painters, writers, poets and historical figures and their important contributions to our global society.

