

Using Playtime to Make Your Baby Bilingual

By SHIVANI VORA

Our first program was the Language Workshop for Children, a New York City-based company that's been around since 1973 and has 10 nationwide locations.

Besides Spanish, French, Italian and Mandarin are offered in nine- or 10-week sessions, with weekly 45-minute classes conducted solely in the chosen tongue. In the tots' division, the teacher usually greets the students with a welcome song and puppet show and then walks the kids through a variety of activities.

Once our daughter got past her initial confusion of a Spanish-only setting, she was engaged by the fast-paced, lively class. She and six other kids watched animatedly as the teacher showed them different stuffed animals and imitated their sounds, and danced to upbeat songs, such as one that worked through body parts from head to toe. Our baby only said some of the words, but she thoroughly enjoyed herself. To keep up learning, parents get a picture book and music CD to use at home with their children a few times a week.



Rodrigo Chausson for The Wall Street Journal

COMPANY

The Language Workshop for Children
languageworkshopforchildren.com
 (pictured above)

PRICE

\$330 to \$500 for a 45-minute weekly class running 9 to 10 weeks.

CONCEPT

Immersion classes in four different languages in the form of a structured play-group environment supplemented by a CD and workbooks for home use.

COMMENTS

Once our 2-year old daughter got past the initial confusion of the teacher speaking only Spanish, she was thoroughly engaged during the well structured and lively session.