

Announcements & Partnership Spotlight	1
Article by Ms. Gabriela	2
Digital Source Book with Musical Hook	3



Announcements

- Welcome to our spring semester. We are excited to see all our returning students, as well as the new faces!
- You should have received an email with a link to our Parent Portal with the packet and recordings of songs you'll be singing in your class. You can also find the class calendar and newsletters.

Questions or comments? Please feel free to contact us.

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Partnership Spotlight



Founded in 1928, the National Child Research Center provides a collaborative approach to preschool education in an environment that nurtures the whole child, fosters partnerships with families, and is committed to the inclusion of children with special needs. A highly trained, multi-disciplinary faculty employs developmentally appropriate practices, supported by ongoing professional development and sound research. Essential to its role as a model of early childhood education is the creation of a diverse, respectful community. Both within and beyond the school community, NCRC seeks opportunities to advocate for all children and their families.



Let's Sing... In Spanish!



Learning a language is easier when it's introduced at a young age. Research has also showed that early childhood music classes help with language development. At Levine we offer *Cantemos y Bailemos*, a series of music classes in Spanish, where we sing, dance, listen and move to music in Spanish while still preserving the three core goals of the First Music curriculum: to sing in tune, keep a steady beat and move expressively.

As children and their parents and caregivers walk into class, lively music is playing, and a large gathering drum awaits. Immediately the room is filled with different sounds that everyone is creating on the drum. We sing "Hola, Hola, a ti, a ti, y a ti" and wave while we say hola and point to a friend on "a ti". By the third class, even those who don't necessarily understand or are able to verbalize the words, are doing the motions and have learned that "hola" means hello and "a ti" means to you.

We sing a song to put the drum away, as we transition to some bounces. Children love being bounced, and there is no better way for them to experience active beat-keeping than for them to feel the beat by being bounced. Keeping a steady beat will eventually help children when speaking and reading. The rhymes and songs that we use for the bounces, wiggles and tickles provide an exposure to vocabulary, sentence structure and patterns. For those adults in the class who are native Spanish speakers, these traditional songs, rhymes, tickles, and wiggles are often some that they experienced when they were children and can now pass them on to their children.

If this is class is during a winter month, we might then sing a song about the cold weather and what we need to wear to go outside, or what activities we can do. Even if the parent, child, or caregiver is unfamiliar with the language, listening to the words in the context of a song, dance, or poem is a fun and effective way to learn and then be able to internalize them. Often, the teacher asks the adult or child that does speak Spanish to help with how to say a certain word in Spanish, as children learn best from other children, and it helps those who do speak it feel more confident about their skills.

All the songs and activities we do in these classes are in Spanish. Our goal is that the instructions and explanations are also in Spanish, and that depends on the level of understanding of Spanish of the participants in each class. As with all other skills, reinforcement at home is crucial if the goal is to make Spanish part of your daily life. You can use the transition song we sing to put instruments away as you have your child put toys away. Or try singing the song about what articles of clothing we wear during winter as you are getting your child dressed in the morning. Even if you don't remember all the words, singing the melody will be helpful. Your child will associate the melody with the word and will surely surprise you when they point to their pants as you sing about "pantalones", or better yet, when they start singing along as they point. There are also many high-quality online resources, recordings, and books available that help incorporate Spanish into your daily life in a fun and engaging way.

Regardless of your Spanish background or knowledge, we hope you consider these series of classes at Levine as you embark with your child on their musical journey.

-Gabriela Cohen

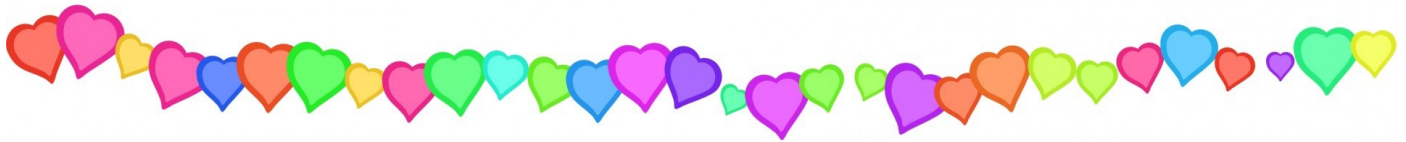


Digital Source

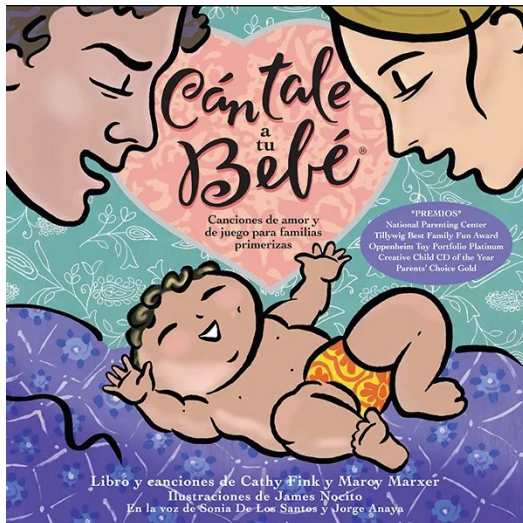
SPANISH PLAYGROUND

Spanish Playground has practical advice and useful material for teaching Spanish. Regardless of the curriculum we use, our level of Spanish, or the age of our students, we all need resources and ideas. Spanish Playground is a source of supplemental material, activities, songs, and games.

<https://www.spanishplayground.net/>



Book With a Musical Hook



CÁNTALE A TU BEBÉ

by Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer

This book is the Spanish Language version of Sing to Your Baby, a new collection of little songs with lots of love for soothing, bonding, rocking, holding, strolling, playing with and loving your baby.