

CHOCOLINGUA LEARNING PATHWAYS

A Family Guide to Language, Learning & Growth

Last Updated- August 2026



Chocolingua Academy



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WELCOME TO CHCOLINGUA



Welcome to Chocolingua!

Chocolingua is a family-centered language and learning academy built on a love of language, culture, education, and connection.

What began as a family passion has grown into a learning community that supports children and families locally and around the world. We create meaningful learning experiences that encourage children to explore, communicate, create, and connect with the world around them.

We believe learning should be joyful, meaningful, and connected to real life. Our experiences are designed to meet learners where they are, support their individual growth, and inspire curiosity, confidence, and a lifelong love of learning.

Where Language, Learning & Community Come Together



OUR CORE VALUES

- ♥ Curiosity & Lifelong Learning
- ♥ Confidence & Growth
- ♥ Connection
- ♥ Joyful Learning



OUR MISSION

Inspiring Confident, Curious & Culturally Aware Learners

Chocolingua's mission is to inspire confident, curious, and culturally aware learners through meaningful language and learning experiences that connect people across cultures and communities.

We create warm and inclusive environments where children can:

- Explore new ideas and perspectives with curiosity
- Communicate and express themselves with confidence
- Connect with people, languages, and cultures
- Grow through challenges, mistakes, and new experiences



We believe language and learning have the power to connect people across borders.

OUR VISION

Connecting Learners Across Languages & Cultures

Chocolingua is growing into a global learning community where children and families can explore languages, cultures, ideas, and perspectives from around the world, whether they join us in person or online.

As we grow, our learning pathways will continue to expand across languages, ages, and educational experiences.

Today, Chocolingua's pathways are built around Spanish immersion, with plans to expand into additional languages as our academy grows.

One academy. Many pathways. A world of possibilities.

OUR TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

Learning Through Connection, Confidence & Discovery

At Chocolingua, we believe children learn best when they feel connected, engaged, and confident enough to explore. Learning should be meaningful, joyful, and connected to real experiences, not simply focused on memorization.

We recognize that every learner is different. Children may understand before they speak, progress at different speeds, and show their learning in different ways. We respect these differences while creating opportunities for every child to grow.

Our goal is to develop not only language and academic skills, but also curiosity, communication, confidence, independence, creativity, cultural awareness, and a lifelong love of learning.

ABOUT PROFE ROMERO

Founder & Educational Director

Chocolingua was founded by Nataly Romero (Profe Romero), an educator with more than a decade of experience teaching Spanish and English as a second language. Nataly holds a Master's Degree in Education from Rutgers University and created the Chocolingua framework to combine proven language acquisition strategies with joyful, real-world connection.

As Educational Director, Profe Romero designs our curriculum, establishes instructional standards, and mentors our teaching team. We carefully select experienced and qualified educators who bring strong teaching skills, a passion for working with children, and a commitment to Chocolingua's educational philosophy.

Our educators receive specialized training in the Chocolingua Method, including TPRS, Comprehensible Input, and differentiated instruction. This helps create a consistent, engaging, and supportive learning experience across our in-person and online programs.



THE CHCOLINGUA METHOD

How We Bring Learning to Life

Our teaching combines immersion, storytelling, meaningful interaction, play, and creativity to make learning natural, engaging, and memorable.

Our approach is informed by TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling) and comprehensible-input (CI) practices, giving learners repeated opportunities to hear, understand, and use language in meaningful contexts.

We adapt learning to each child through differentiation and scaffolding, providing the right amount of support or challenge as they grow. Children are encouraged to communicate, but speaking is never forced. Listening, observing, responding, and participating are all meaningful steps in the learning process.

Through stories, games, movement, conversation, creative activities, cultural exploration, and real-world experiences, children gradually build understanding, confidence, and independence.

Understand. Connect. Communicate. Create. Grow.



OUR LEARNING PATHWAYS

Chocolingua currently offers Spanish-language immersion programs for children ages 1.5–11, both in person and online.

Every learner's journey is unique. Chocolingua offers different pathways designed to meet learners where they are and support how they learn best. While programs may differ in structure, each reflects our shared commitment to meaningful, joyful learning and lasting growth.

Different paths. One philosophy.

Learning Through Play, Culture & Connection

At Chocolingua, children learn through experiences that invite them to explore, communicate, create, and connect. Depending on their age and program, learners may experience:

- Story-based adventures
- Songs, music & movement
- Art, drama & creative expression
- Games & imaginative play
- Mindfulness & movement
- Cultural exploration
- Conversation & real-world interaction
- Age-appropriate literacy experiences
- Collaborative projects



Our goal is to create learning experiences that feel engaging and meaningful while giving children repeated opportunities to understand, participate, communicate, and grow.

Growing Through the Seasons

Our seasonal sessions form a continuing learning journey rather than a series of isolated classes. Each season builds on previous experiences while introducing new vocabulary, stories, cultural themes, and creative projects. Children may remain in the same age group for one or more years while continuing to encounter fresh content and increasingly challenging opportunities.

This allows learners to:

- Reinforce what they already know
- Build confidence and independence gradually
- Develop language through repetition and meaningful use
- Explore new cultural connections
- Take on increasingly independent challenges

Each season brings something new while continuing the journey.



IN-PERSON LEARNING PATHWAY

Immersion Learning in Montclair, NJ

Our in-person programs welcome children with no prior Spanish experience in age-based pods designed around developmental readiness. Children experience Spanish naturally through play, stories, movement, creativity, conversation, culture, and community.

Because children develop at different rates, our early-age pods may overlap slightly. Chiquis is a caregiver-supported first introduction to Spanish, Peques nurtures growing independence, Curiosos welcomes children ready to participate and communicate more independently, Aventureros builds on that foundation with more complex conversation and collaboration, and Exploradores challenges older learners with real-world themes and increasingly independent communication.

Within every pod, children arrive with different levels of prior exposure, from complete beginners to returning learners with a mixed level of experience. Teachers differentiate and scaffold instruction so each child is appropriately supported and challenged, regardless of where they're starting from. Our goal is to create an environment where every child feels comfortable, supported, and ready to grow.

Chiquis and Peques are 100% immersion, while Curiosos, Aventureros, and Exploradores are approximately 95% immersion. Teachers use visuals, gestures, repetition, modeling, and context to make Spanish understandable, engaging, and meaningful.

Age & Developmental Readiness

Chiquis (Ages 1.5–3) A playful first introduction to language through songs, movement, stories, sensory experiences, and meaningful interaction with a caregiver.

Peques (Ages 3–4) A joyful transition toward independent learning through play, storytelling, music, movement, and simple language interactions. No caregiver participation is required.

Curiosos (Ages 4–6) A playful introduction to Spanish through stories, songs, games, movement, art, and cultural exploration. Children build listening skills, vocabulary, and confidence in an immersive environment.

Aventureros (Ages 7–8) An engaging immersion experience where children expand communication skills through stories, games, movement, conversation, and collaborative activities.

Exploradores (Ages 9–11) A creative immersion experience for children ready to explore language through real-world themes, storytelling, collaborative projects, cultural exploration, and increasingly independent communication.



ONLINE LEARNING PATHWAYS

Flexible Language Learning | All ages

Our online programs offer flexible pathways for language development, including proficiency-based courses, specialty classes, workshops, and other age-appropriate experiences. Classes may be organized by language level, age, or learning goals, allowing each learner to choose the path that fits them best.

What a Live Class Looks Like

Online classes are interactive, engaging, and age-appropriate, with live instruction and real opportunities to communicate and practice.

Class format, schedule, session length, and frequency vary by program and are listed with each offering. Online classes are available in select time zones – current times and availability are listed with each program.

The Proficiency-Based Language Journey | Ages 7–11

For learners following a structured pathway, Chocolingua's six-level journey provides a framework for progressive language development – from early communication to increasingly independent use of the language. Each learner progresses at their own pace, shaped by experience, consistency, and individual needs.

Outside ages 7–11? An adjusted group or individual pathway may be available based on age, readiness, and learning goals.

How Placement & Progress Work

Placement is guided by exposure hours – an approximate measure of total language engagement, not required class hours. These may include live interactive classes, recommended home practice, audio or video exposure, and active review.

A few things to keep in mind:

- Progress isn't determined by hours alone, and pace varies by learner.
- Hour and year ranges are cumulative from the start of a learner's journey, not the time spent within a single level.

Visit our **Language proficiency journey** for a closer look at what each level looks like in practice – the skills learners typically build at each stage, from early communication to independent use of the language – so you can see where your learner currently stands and what's ahead.

AT A GLANCE THE SIX LEVELS

For a detailed look at each level, visit our **Language proficiency journey**.

Level 1

Level 1 – The Observer/ El Observador
Approx. 0–50 hrs | 0–0.5 yrs
Emerging/Novice | Pre-A1 / Emerging A1



In this introductory stage, children begin to recognize and respond to basic greetings and simple everyday words. They learn to follow fundamental instructions using gestures or visual supports, and successfully identify colors, numbers, and familiar objects in Spanish.

Level 2

Level 2 – The Discoverer/ El Descubridor
Approx. 50–100 hrs | 0.5–1 yr
Novice Low–Mid | A1



Students advance to repeating simple phrases and short expressions. They actively exchange basic personal information by introducing themselves, counting, and identifying common objects, while comfortably responding to familiar questions with guidance.

Level 3

Level 3 – The Socializer/ El Socializador
Approx. 100–150 hrs | 1–2 yrs
Novice Mid–High | A1–A2



At this level, children begin to form short, complete sentences with support. They use memorized phrases to describe themselves, their family, school, and hobbies, and comfortably engage in guided, interactive conversations with peers or teachers.

Level 4

Level 4 – The Traveler/ El Viajero
Approx. 150–200 hrs | 2–3 yrs
Novice High–Intermediate Low | A2–B1



Learners participate confidently in storytelling, creative role-play, and routine conversations. They express short sentences completely independently in familiar contexts, and possess the confidence to ask and answer spontaneous questions without requiring external prompts.

Level 5

Level 5 – The Leader/ El Líder
Approx. 200–300 hrs | 3–4.5 yrs
Intermediate Mid–High | B1–B2



Students communicate independently about a wide array of familiar topics. They speak fluidly in complete sentences, maintain extended conversations, articulate their own ideas, describe specific events, and contribute actively to collaborative group projects.

Level 6

Level 6 – The Ambassador/ El Embajador
Approx. 300+ hrs | 4.5+ yrs
Advanced Progression | B2–C1*



In the final mastery stage, children discuss complex ideas and comfortably engage in debates, advanced problem-solving, and structured presentations. They demonstrate high fluency with minimal to no support while applying a sophisticated intercultural understanding.

**Reflects the top of this stage's typical range; further growth toward full C1 fluency may continue beyond this program.*



Chocolingua Academy

HOW CHILDREN PROGRESS

Everything above reflects how progress works in our online pathways – placement by proficiency, growth measured in exposure hours, and levels that build over time.

In our in-person pods, progress works a little differently: placement is primarily based on age and developmental readiness, with teachers adjusting support and challenge within the group.

Across both formats, we value progress over perfection – children are encouraged to participate, experiment with language, and grow into independent communicators at their own pace.

CELEBRATING GROWTH

Progress at Chocolingua is something to celebrate, not just measure. As learners complete levels, reach milestones, or take on new challenges, we make sure that growth is recognized – whether through progress updates, in-class recognition, or markers of achievement along the way.

These moments are meant to build confidence as much as competence, helping children see their own growth and stay motivated to keep going.

FAMILIES AS LEARNING PARTNERS

Families play an active role in a child's language journey. Encouraging practice at home, celebrating small wins, and showing genuine interest in what your child is learning all help reinforce progress made in class.

You don't need to speak the language yourself to support it – consistency, curiosity, and encouragement go a long way. Even a few minutes of shared practice or conversation can make a meaningful difference over time.



STAY CONNECTED

We're so glad to have your family as part of the Chocolingua community. Whether you're joining us in person, online, or from anywhere around the world, we're here to support your learner's journey – every step of the way.

For questions about programs, enrollment, or your child's learning experience, please reach out anytime.

Contact	Information
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One academy. Many pathways. A world of possibilities.

¡Aprendamos juntos!

READY TO ENROLL?

Getting started with Chocolingua is simple

- Explore your pathway – Review our in-person age groups or the online Proficiency-Based Language Journey to find the best starting point for your child.
- Not sure where to start? Reach out for a free conversation, or schedule a complimentary placement assessment for online learners with prior experience.
- Enroll – Visit chocolingua.com/register or contact us at hello@chocolingua.com
- Welcome! You'll receive a welcome email with your class schedule, what to bring to the first session, and instructions for joining online classes.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT IN-PERSON CLASSES

What is an in-person immersion pod?

Our in-person immersion pods are small, age-based learning groups where children experience Spanish through meaningful, playful interaction. Depending on the age group, Spanish is used at approximately 95–100% of class time, with teachers using gestures, visuals, repetition, routines, and context to support understanding.

What does 95% Spanish immersion mean?

Spanish is the primary language used for stories, games, directions, conversations, songs, and activities. When a child needs extra support, the teacher may briefly use English, visuals, gestures, or another strategy to help them understand and participate. The goal is to keep children connected to Spanish while making the experience accessible and successful.

Does my child need prior Spanish experience?

Not necessarily. Depending on the program, we welcome learners at different levels of experience, including complete beginners. Teachers use differentiation and scaffolding to meet each child where they are and support their growth.

How do mixed-level in-person pods work?

Our pods bring together children of the same age with different levels of Spanish exposure – from beginners to returning learners with prior experience. Rather than separating children by proficiency, teachers adjust language, questions, and activities so each learner is appropriately challenged within the same group.

What if my child isn't ready to speak Spanish yet?

That's completely okay. Speaking is encouraged, never forced. Children build comfort and understanding through listening, observing, participating, and responding. As confidence grows, speaking often develops naturally – in each child's own time.

How is the in-person curriculum structured?

In-person pods are organized primarily by age and developmental readiness rather than proficiency level. Learning is structured around seasonal thematic units that introduce new vocabulary, stories, cultural connections, and creative experiences throughout the year – staying immersive, age-appropriate, and focused on meaningful communication rather than formal testing.

How do I know when my child is ready to move to the next group?

Teachers closely observe each child's development, participation, and readiness throughout the year. When a child consistently demonstrates skills aligned with the next age group, the teacher will reach out to the family with a recommendation. Our goal is to make transitions feel natural, so each child continues to grow and feel successful.

What if my child is older than the in-person age groups listed?

We're happy to talk through options for older learners as our in-person pathways continue to grow. Contact us directly and we'll help figure out the best next step.

How do the in-person and online pathways relate to each other?

Our in-person pods are grouped by age and developmental readiness, while our online Proficiency-Based Language Journey uses six structured levels built around communication skills. Because the two pathways are designed differently, a child's in-person age group doesn't map directly to a specific online level. If your child is moving between pathways – or joining both – we're happy to help find the right starting point through a quick placement conversation.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT ONLINE CLASSES

What are online learning experiences like?

Our online learning offers flexible opportunities for children to develop language skills through proficiency-based courses, specialty classes, workshops, and other age-appropriate experiences. Each offering is designed around the learner's age, level, interests, skills, or learning goals.

What teaching methodology does Chocolingua use?

Our online learning is interactive, comprehensible, and learner-centered. Depending on the class, teachers use storytelling, visuals, repetition, movement, conversation, games, and TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling) to make language meaningful and understandable. Instruction is adapted to the learner's age, level, and needs, with a focus on communication rather than memorization.

What is the Proficiency-Based Language Journey?

For learners following a structured pathway, Chocolingua uses a six-level proficiency journey focused on what students can understand, communicate, and accomplish in the language. The levels provide a framework for growth rather than a rigid timeline.

Does my child need prior language experience?

It depends on the course. Some online experiences are designed for beginners, while others are intended for learners with previous experience or a specific proficiency level. Each course description includes the appropriate requirements and recommendations.

How do I know which level is right for my child?

Start by reviewing our Proficiency-Based Language Journey and the level descriptions in our Language proficiency journey. If you're still unsure, reach out and we'll guide you based on your child's language background and prior experience – or schedule a free language assessment to help determine the best starting point.

Do all online classes follow the six-level pathway?

No. Some online classes follow the proficiency pathway, while others are designed around a particular age, skill, interest, theme, or learning goal.

How quickly will my child move through the levels?

There is no fixed timeline. Progress depends on exposure, consistency, age, experience, and individual learning needs. The approximate hours and years in our Language proficiency journey are general reference points, not requirements.

What if my child isn't ready to speak yet?

Speaking is encouraged, never forced. Teachers create opportunities to participate through listening, responding, storytelling, games, and conversation. As children grow more comfortable with the language, communication develops naturally and at their own pace.

What if my child is younger than 7 or older than 11?

While our structured six-level pathway is designed for ages 7–11, we also welcome younger and older learners through an adjusted group or individual pathway based on age, readiness, and learning goals. Reach out to us at hello@chocolingua.com and we'll help find the right fit.

Where can I learn more about the proficiency levels?

Visit our Language proficiency journey for detailed descriptions of each level, including the skills associated with each stage – helpful for choosing the pathway that best fits your learner.