

Dear Kinder Families,

¡Bienvenidos a Kindergarten! My name is Marina and I will be teaching kinder at LILA next year. I am eager to meet all of you and I can't wait to embark on this exciting journey through kindergarten together.

I am from Madrid, Spain, where I lived with my family. I have a younger brother and an older sister. My sister works in Madrid as social educator and my brother is at college in Germany. My father works as a psychologist but, he worked in the business area for most of his life. He was the one who taught me that you never know what you can do until you try it. My mother is a teacher and owns a private preschool.

I spent 8 summers working with children ages 1 to 3 years at my mom's school and I continue to spend my summers there to this day. I find it incredibly rewarding to share the experience of watching a child learn their first steps, their first words and dealing with their first emotions. My mom's school is also where I first learned that each child is different and that each child learns in different ways. I love that children are sponges and that I can be part of the process to help them learn and grow as much as possible. This is all part of why I was so excited for my new adventure three years ago, when I worked for the first time with all of you at LILA. I am honoured to be teaching your children their first Spanish songs, letters, numbers and even sentences. Together we will have so much fun while gaining knowledge through the Spanish language.

Four years ago I was fortunate enough to work as a Language Ambassador at LILA with Señora Katie in Kinder. I loved being part of the LILA community and I'm so excited to be back as a teacher this fall. My philosophy on teaching is a combination of everything I've learned at my mom's preschool in Spain and also in England, Poland and LILA. I will build on LILA's responsive classroom foundation by using cooperative learning techniques. By using structured positive interdependence, children learn to work together in groups to accomplish tasks, helping and respecting each other during the process.

Last year was my third year teaching at LILA and I enjoyed it very much. After the experience of the past years, now I have more ideas for the coming year. I look forward to working with you and your child. There are scheduled conferences on August. I would like to use that time to share with you my goals and aspirations for this year as well as learn about your child and respond to any questions or concerns that you may have. If you would like to contact me prior to the conferences, please feel free. My e-mail is mortega@lakesinternational.org.

Sincerely,
Marina Ortega Doval
(Profe Marina)