



Language Ed in Lamorinda

Written by Ashleigh Miller. Posted in [Family + Parenting](#)

Ready to find great foreign language options in Lamorinda? Look no further!



We all know that tackling the tongue twisters of a new language is difficult. Turns out those tongue twisters tickle more than the tongue - there are concrete cognitive rewards in learning a new language, especially for young children.

“Much like learning music, learning a second language stimulates parts of the brain and creates new pathways,” says Margaret Grover-Roos, Founder and Director of Viva el Español. “Learning a second language helps with cognitive skills and problem-solving skills not related to language.”

Lamorinda public schools offer foreign language classes starting in Kindergarten. Most elementary schools offer after-school Spanish, and elective Spanish and French is offered starting in 7th grade. All high schools have a language requirement for graduation. Spanish and French are offered at all the high schools, and some campuses offer Cantonese, German, Japanese, and Latin.

However, you might not want to wait until the tween or teen years to start hearing your little one say bon nuit at bedtime. “Younger is better!!” says Grover-Roos. “It is best to start even as infants, but for sure by age 2. They are creating two language systems, which is what provides the cognitive benefits.”

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Spanish

Viva el Español in [Lafayette](#) offers classes for toddlers through adults, through traditional classes, cooking, songs, dancing, games and arts and crafts. With dozens of native Spanish speaking instructors and tutors, and highly flexible class times offered, Viva el Español will have your little one cooing Hola, mama! in no time.

3451 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette. (925) 962-9177. vivaelespanol.org

For the very small niños, [Kids Intro Spanish Speaking \(KISS\) Spanish Immersion Preschool](#) in nearby Walnut Creek might be a muy bueno idea for children ages 2-6. KISS is a total immersion program, where 95% of the class is conducted in Spanish.

2780 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek. (925) 952-9903. kissprogram.com

Chinese

[Orinda Parks and Recreation](#) offers Mandarin Chinese classes for children ages 3-6. This class inspires young children to explore Mandarin in a fun and playful environment.

Just beyond the Lamorinda border, [Walnut Creek Chinese School](#) offers Mandarin Chinese conversational classes, and group or private tutoring. Lessons are available for all ages and abilities, and use games, songs, and drawings to introduce Chinese pronunciation, phonics, and simple character writing.

(925) 330-7988. wccs123@gmail.com and walnutcreekchineseschool.org

French

[French For Fun in Lafayette](#) offers French immersion programs for even the littlest of learners, babies through middle school. Using a mixture of play, songs, story time, and role playing to fully engage children in learning. Starting at age 2.5 children are taught using total immersion, meaning the classes are conducted entirely in French. Additionally, they offer private tutoring for high school students needing a little extra help with their Française.

3381 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. (925) 283-9822. frenchforfun.com

Multiple Languages

Whether you're looking to learn Italian, Chinese, French or something else, [Academy of Language and Music in Orinda](#) offers group and private lessons to fit your schedule.

Rd., Orinda. (925) 254-5056. alma-leap.com

99 Brookwood

Photos courtesy of Viva el Español

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Emmanuelle Ichaye-Anum · Concord, California

I'm sure you would have like to know that EFBA offer french after school classes as well in Walnut Creek.

We are located:
Walnut Avenue Community Preschool.
260 Walnut Avenue.
Walnut Creek
CA 94598

For more info contact: 925-305-3023 or visit www.efba.us.

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