

Family Handbook

2020



Director: Angela Gonzalez

6601 S 70th Street

Lincoln, NE 68516

(402) 416-7078

www.aventurasne.com



Spanish Immersion Program for Young Children

It's a big world out there, let's go explore! Adventure awaits!

Welcome to Aventuras - Spanish Immersion Program for Young Children! We are so excited to have you as part of our program and look forward to working together to offer your family a rewarding experience and an adventurous year. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions, suggestions or concerns as our primary goal is to provide an all-around exemplary program that best serves our community.

Our Mission:

To equip young children with an *education for bilingualism* through an enriching comprehensive preparatory program in a cooperative, encouraging, inspiring and adventurous learning environment.

Our Vision:

A world engaged cross-culturally, overflowing with appreciation for diversity and the abundance of opportunity it creates. Future generations equipped with skills necessary to innovate, collaborate and solve our shared global challenges.



Ages of Children Served

Aventuras serves children ages 3-12. Children attending should be toilet trained but we are prepared to deal with accidents from time to time. Please feel free to send a change of clothes in your child's backpack. Emergency clothing will also be on hand.

Developmental Program

Our preschool teachers utilize foundations from Teaching Strategies - The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, Spanish Edition, along with programming developed in-house. Curriculum used with our older students includes the elementary Spanish curriculum IN-VISION developed by the Nebraska Department of Education and Spanish Curriculum by Sombrero Time©. Children will play games, eat snack, make arts and crafts and do science experiments all taught in Spanish. **They will learn the language without even thinking about it.** Our teachers are bilingual in Spanish and English, but primarily speak to your child and to other teachers in Spanish allowing children to hear the tones and sounds of the language consistently. As basic listening proficiency is established, children will begin to develop speaking skills, followed by reading and finally by writing. Our younger students focus on listening and speaking while our older students incorporate more reading and writing.

**“The limits of my language
are the limits of my world.”
- Ludwig Wittgenstein**

Our curriculum mirrors that of a typical classroom, just... taught in Spanish. The social skills, daily life skills, science and math concepts taught at Aventuras are universal. We practice reading and writing and prepare your child to identify letters, numbers, colors, and shapes. Themes incorporated into our curriculum include:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Calendar & Time | • Measurement |
| • Culture and Celebrations | • Simple Machines |
| • Community | • Living Things |
| • Art, Music & Dance | • Senses |
| • Weather | • Exercise |
| • Patterns | • Hygiene & Health |
| • Observation | • Cooking & Healthy Eating |
| • Problem Solving | |



Special Services

The content of our program is taught in Spanish and simultaneously imparts language development and academic readiness. Children who learn multiple languages experience many benefits including development of superior problem solving, critical thinking, math skills, listening and concentration skills, creativity, memory, mental flexibility, multi-tasking abilities and higher standardized test scores. Learning a language prepares the brain to learn additional languages whereby also improving a child's ability to learn English.

Meet us!



Allow us to introduce you to our owners, Luis and Angela Gonzalez. They have three young children to whom they teach Spanish and English. While traveling to Mexico in 2017 to visit family, they discovered that they needed to do more to encourage fluency for their little ones. Researching Spanish classes available in Lincoln, they found the type of learning environment they were seeking did not exist and so they set out to create it.

Luis is a native Spanish speaker and a successful entrepreneur who brings extensive business acumen to the management of the school.

Angela will serve as director of Aventuras. She is passionate about doing her part to make the world a welcoming and united place and envisions Aventuras as a step in that direction. Angela brings a wealth of education and experience which will aid in the administration of our program. She has a Bachelor's degree in International Studies and French from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and is completing a Master's degree in Critical and Creative Thinking from the University of Nebraska - Omaha with a concentration in International Migration, Development and Citizenship. She has completed coursework in Child, Youth and Family Studies including International Family Studies. Angela spent two years tutoring English language learners. She spent four years as a Project Coordinator administering grant funded non-profit programs for new Americans and has spent the last six years as a Research Administrator at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln.



Karina Saavedra-Mendez is our Lead Teacher and she has been teaching with Aventuras since opening day. Maestra Karina is an engaging educator and a pleasure to work with. Karina is from Usulután, El Salvador and has been living in Lincoln for 20 years. Her family consists of her husband William, three sons and one daughter-in-law, Axel, 23, and his wife, Kiera, 23, (who live in Overland Park, Kansas) Fabricio, 22 (who lives in Lincoln), and the youngest, Thiago, who is 3. Her family speaks both English and Spanish at home, and she believes that it is very important for children to be bilingual, because it opens up new opportunities for them as they become older.

Karina worked as a Health Technician for Lincoln Public Schools for 13 years and worked at Clinton Elementary where she still substitutes when she can. She is also a Spanish interpreter at LPS and just entered into her 16th year in that line of work. For the past 15 years, during tax season she has worked at H&R Block as a Tax Specialist, and it is something that she looks forward to every year.

Karina volunteers at her church teaching Sunday school to preschool aged children and has been doing so for around 8 years. In her free time she enjoys going to church and participating in church activities and also going to and finding new coffee places around Lincoln to relax. She is excited to be on this journey with you and your children at Aventuras!

Registration Information

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Morning 1/2 Day Program: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Full day Program: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Afterschool Program: Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Payment Schedule: Registration fee of \$40 is due upon enrollment. Fees are due monthly.

Payments can be paid by check or online. Tuition rates in the below chart are shown per week.

If tuition is a barrier for you to enroll, please ask us about our scholarship incentives.

Parents/guardians should notify Aventuras in writing 30 days prior to termination. If cancellation occurs with less than 30-days notice, a \$45 termination fee will be charged. There will be a \$30 fee for a returned payment. Payment of returned tuition and additional fee will need to be paid within five business days after return of payment or enrollment is subject to termination. There are no deductions or refunds for absence, illness, holidays or weather closures.



Weather and Holidays

In the event that Lincoln Public Schools closes for weather, Aventuras will be closed. If LPS implements a late start related to weather, Aventuras will be closed. Our 2020 program calendar is as follows (subject to change):



2020 Program Calendar

All dates are subject to change

January 13 th	First day of 2020 Classes
January 20 th	MLK Day – NO CLASS
February 17 th	Presidents Day – NO CLASS
April 10 th	Good Friday – NO CLASS
May 25 th	Memorial Day – NO CLASS
July 3 rd	Independence Day – NO CLASS
July 6 th – July 24 th	Summer Camp 1 (3 weeks)
July 27 th – August 7 th	Summer Camp 2 (2 weeks)
September 7 th	Labor Day – NO CLASS
November 11 th	Veterans Day – NO CLASS
November 26 th – November 27 th	Thanksgiving Break – NO CLASS
December 24 th & December 25 th	Holiday Break – NO CLASS
December 31 st – January 1 st	Holiday Break - NO CLASS

Parent/Guardian Expectations

- Complete and update enrollment forms including receipt of NE DHHS Parent Information Brochure, emergency contacts and immunization records. Please update us immediately with changes.
- Communicate when child is ill or will not be in class. Please notify us of absence at least 15 minutes before your child is expected to be in class.
- Communicate concerns with the teacher or director.
- Drop-off and pick-up child on time.
- Keep sick child at home.
- Parents are encouraged to visit or volunteer in the classroom.
- Make payments on time.

Drop-off: Please accompany child into the building.

Pick-up: Children will only be released to people authorized on their intake paperwork. A photo ID will be required for any adult that the staff does not recognize as an authorized adult. Parents/guardians may be asked to show ID until teachers get to know everyone. Please make sure you bring your ID with you each day. Children must be picked-up promptly and on time. For security, we are a locked facility. At the end of class, children will be prepared with their belongings and dismissed one by one at the door. Please call the office (402) 416-7078 if you will be late to pick-up. A fee of \$25 for each 10 minutes may be applied for late pick-ups.

Handwashing

Children will be asked to wash their hands upon arrival to help prevent the spread of illness.

Lunch and Snacks

We will provide a light snack for your child each day. Families enrolled in the full day program are asked to bring lunches as meals are not provided. Snacks will not contain peanuts or tree nuts. If your child has allergies, please ensure they are recorded on your intake paperwork. If children wish to bring treats to celebrate special occasions, please make sure treats are store purchased, free of allergens and commercially labeled.



**“One language sets you
in a corridor for life. Two
languages open every
door along the way.”
– Frank Smith**

Sun Block & Bug Repellent

Parents who wish to have their child use sun block and/or bug repellent should apply it prior to attending class. Children attending our full-day program will need to bring their own sunscreen for reapplication if necessary. Our fenced play yard is largely shaded and direct sun exposure is very limited.

Transportation

Aventuras will not provide transportation to children except in the case of emergency.

Disaster Preparedness/Emergencies

1. Parent Notification: All incidents or accidents must be reported to the parent/guardian, the Lead Teacher, and the Director on the incident/accident report form. A parent/guardian must sign the completed form on the day of the incident. The parent must receive a copy with the original filed in the child's enrollment folder by the Director. In serious cases, (large cut, bruises, bite mark, etc.) staff members will call the parents before pick-up to inform them of the incident. In the case of an emergency involving their child, the Director or Lead Teacher will notify parents by telephone as soon as possible. In case of a center-wide emergency, the Director or Lead Teacher may send a text and/or email in addition to telephoning parents as soon as possible.
2. Reunification with Parents after an emergency: Children will be released to contacts listed on the child's enrollment form with proper identification.
3. If an emergency requires children and staff to evacuate the premises, they will move to an alternate site (Home Depot – 6800 S 70th Street) within walking distance. Parents will be notified to pick up their children at the alternate site if they cannot return to Aventuras.

Immunizations

Within 30 days of enrollment, the child's parent/guardian must provide the child's immunization record to Aventuras. The parent/guardian must provide an updated immunization record each time the child receives additional immunizations. Aventuras will make immunization records available for review upon request by the Department of Health and Human Services. Each child's immunization record must include:

1. Documentation of age-appropriate immunization;
2. Certification by a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant that immunization is not appropriate for a stated medical reason; or
3. A written statement that the parent or guardian does not wish to have the child immunized and the reasons for that decision.

Illness Policy

Please keep your child home if they show any of these symptoms. You will be asked to pick up your child if they begin to show any of these symptoms during class hours. Your child must be symptom-free for at least 24-hours without medication before returning to class.



- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fever above 100°
- Conjunctivitis or pinkeye - red, mattery, or draining eyes
- Contagious diseases such as chickenpox, measles, mumps,
- Lice – child may return once are no live lice present.
- Undiagnosed or contagious rash
- Multiple symptoms of infectious disease including coughs, runny nose, aches and pains, fatigue, and loss of appetite.

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department requires us to report on certain diseases:

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/enviro/CEH/pdf/ReportableDiseaseList.pdf>

Medication Policy

If your child will be taking medication at preschool (prescription or over-the-counter), you must request and complete a Medication Authorization Form. All medication must be in the original container labeled with the child's name and required dosage. All medication is kept secured in a designated location and must be checked in with staff.

Medication which is administered at Aventuras should be limited to those which are necessary in order to attend class. All efforts should be made to administer medication on a schedule outside of class hours. Emergency medications such as EpiPens or rescue inhalers are welcomed.

IMPORTANT: Medications that are used on an "as needed" basis (or "PRN") require a note from a medical professional describing the symptom(s) and dosage.

Suggestions or Concerns

Suggestions or concerns should be directed to your child's Teacher. If further action is required, please contact the Director.

Owner

Aventuras – Spanish Immersion Program for Young Children, LLC is owned and operated by:

Luis and Angela Gonzalez

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Lincoln, Nebraska 68516

(402) 416-7078

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“Learning a foreign language, and the culture that goes with it, is one of the most useful things we can do to broaden the empathy and imaginative sympathy and cultural outlook of children.” -

Michael Gove

