

LIFE&FAMILY

SPANISH

Bernard & Fatima Terrill,
Australian
Kira (6), Aiden (3)

COURSE ENROLLED IN: Spanish for Native Speakers classes at Las Lilas. Being a native speaker myself, it was imperative for my young children to be able to continue with the Spanish foundation they had been getting at home since birth.

REASON FOR ENROLLING: On our arrival in Singapore, it was pretty much the go-to school for learning Spanish. Everyone we asked recommended Las Lilas to us.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR: Meeting new friends is an obvious one – and not just the kids, but me too. It has been a place to socialise; we recently travelled to Spain and caught up with two families we met through Las Lilas. More importantly, it has nurtured the kids' interest in Spanish. Kira reads and writes not only in English and Mandarin as taught at



her school, but also in Spanish, thanks to Las Lilas. The other positive aspect of Las Lilas is the dedication, passion and sunny disposition of the teachers.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE: Maintaining my children's interest in Spanish is a challenge. Las Lilas supports this in the way it inspires children to take an interest in the culture, history and nature of the language.

TIPS FOR READERS: Start early. Spanish is a widely spoken language, so you

have tons of opportunities to practise it when travelling. And whether you're a native speaker or not, the school and its staff make it a fun experience for both children and adults.

Las Lilas School

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(Office Tower)
6333 3484 | laslilasschool.com

SWIMMING

Siobhán Cool, Australian
Harry (8), Jack (5)

COURSE ENROLLED IN: Originally, both children started in the Marsden Swim School infants' water familiarisation class (each from age six months).



I wanted them to learn water-safety skills and confidence. Now they've progressed to the learn-to-swim class (Jack) and the stroke class (Harry).

REASON FOR ENROLLING: I had read positive testimonials about MSS and, when Harry was old enough to start lessons at six months of age, we wanted him to learn from teachers who were accredited by AUSTSWIM, the Australian national council for swimming teachers.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR: Learning proper stroke style, swimming endurance and fitness, confidence in the water, and a love of water-play.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE: The transition period (when parents are no longer required to be in the pool during the classes) was hard, as my boys would not always focus on the teachers, having too much fun duck-diving under the water! With patience and appropriate discipline, the teachers made them understand that the lesson was about learning as well as some fun at the end of class.

TIPS FOR READERS: Start training your child to be happy in water almost from birth. We used Olympic swim coach Laurie Lawrence's technique at bath-time – cueing the baby with smiles and gentle words before tipping warm water from a cup over the baby's face. This method can take away any distress a child may have at being in a big swimming pool when formal classes can begin at six months.

Marsden Swim School

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