

Karina M Torres

(Spanish Program Director)

Karina was born in San Bernardino, California from Peruvian parents. As a toddler, she moved to Lima, Peru. That's where she attended an English immersion school, becoming familiar with bilingual education and what it takes to be fully bilingual.

In 2001, Karina moved to Austin, Texas. She attended college, earning a degree in Anthropological Archeology and Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Initially, Karina dreamed of being an archeologist, a dream that took her to discover many different cultures and several countries throughout Central and South America.

In 2008, Karina moved back to Lima, where she taught English to children and adults. Slowly, Karina discovered her new passion: languages and teaching. This led her to enroll in a master's program in Applied Linguistics specializing in second language instruction. In Peru, Karina worked in several bilingual programs as an English teacher.

In 2010, Karina moved back to the U.S. and started working as an ESL instructor at the University of California, Bakersfield and taught classes for families that just moved to the United States. In 2011, she moved to Los Angeles and continued teaching in many unique settings, including home tutoring, home school, and after-school enrichment programs. In 2012, she co-founded Kallpachay, a local Spanish immersion program and summer camp.

In 2015, a change in vision led her to establish Yachaywasi, a local Spanish immersion preschool and OLA. During this time, she completed a certification in Advance Core Early Childhood Education.

Karina helps train teachers to develop a very hands-on approach to language instruction. She creates a flow in each lesson with activities that meet both the developmental stage of the group and help establish goals where each child is enticed to explore, discover, learn, and build confidence.