

Two sisters translate their love of Spanish into new DVD series for children

By Cecily Markland

As children growing up in the Southern California town of El Centro, the two sisters, Krisse Brock Kelly and Julie Brock Campbell, learned to love the Spanish language. Now, they have set out to instill that same interest in children everywhere with their award-winning DVD series, Kids Love Spanish™.

Brock Sisters Productions launched the new series of seven different fun and educational DVDs on May 5 at a Cinco de Mayo party for the 75 children, of all different ages, who participated in producing the series.

The children cast in the DVDs were selected from Julie's son's school class, from members of Julie's Methodist congregation, and from five different LDS wards: the Evergreen and Elmwood wards in the Mesa Central Stake, Octotillo Ward in the Queen Creek Stake, San Tan Heights Ward in the Queen Creek South and the Legacy Park Ward in the Legacy Park Stake in Syracuse, Utah.

"A lot of our friends and neighbors participated, and it was so much fun," Julie says.

The sisters, who are close friends, stay-at-home moms, and, now, business partners, began their project almost two years ago; but, as Julie explains, she and Krisse built the foundation for Kids Love Spanish years ago.

As daughters of an asparagus farmer, they grew up near the Mexican border, where they were exposed to Spanish everyday. Both sisters took Spanish throughout high school and studied abroad in Mexico and Santiago, Chile. Krisse went on to receive a BA in Political Science from UCLA, with an emphasis in Education; and a Master's degree in Bilingual Education from UCSB. She taught bilingual Kindergarten through fourth grades and was a bilingual assistant principal in Southern California. She now lives in Phoenix with her husband, Chris, and her son, Cameron.

Julie studied Media Arts and Spanish at the University of Arizona and worked in the broadcast and computer industry where she used her Spanish everyday. Julie and her husband, Brad, have three sons: Brock, Morgan, and Hayden, and Julie started teaching them Spanish from the time they were small babies.

Yet, in teaching their own children, the sisters saw a need in the market. "Because we couldn't find a dynamic Spanish series that engaged the entire family, we created our own," Krisse says.



Kids Love Spanish, a new series of fun and effective DVDs that teach introductory Spanish to children was created by sisters, Krisse Brock Kelly (left) and Julie Brock Campbell (right) and features Julie's son, Brock (center) and 50 other children, many who are members of East Valley wards. Photo by Maria Nissen.

Julie explains that their primary goal with the DVD series was to translate the fun they have had with Spanish into a presentation that was just as enjoyable to watch and learn from.

This format, with children saying the words and pronunciation reinforced by Julie and Krisse, has proven to be an effective teaching method.

"Kids love watching other kids. They love learning Spanish from other children," Julie explains.

Though designed for children ages one through eight, it seems children of all ages, and even adults, are drawn to the numerous examples presented on the DVD as well as the bright colors and engaging music as well.

"Research shows learning a foreign language can help children learn to read faster, have better problem-solving skills and more self-confidence," Julie says, adding, "We've heard that parents enjoy them, too. Families are watching and learning together."

To learn more about the various Kids Love Spanish DVDs, which are available in box sets or individual DVDs, visit the Brock Sisters Productions Web site at www.kidslovespanish.com or call 480.706.5711.

Your business can reach over 70,000 LDS members in Arizona with an ad in The Beehive. Email us at info@arizonabeehive.com for more information.

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