

Foreign Language Educator Olga Sokolova of Spanish Sunday School Recently Featured on Close Up Radio

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In 2025, the ability to communicate across cultural and linguistic boundaries has never been more necessary. Olga Sokolova, a dedicated foreign language educator with over a decade of experience in teaching, is committed to nurturing multilingualism and cultural understanding among students in the United States. Fluent in four languages, including Russian, Ukrainian, Spanish, and English, Sokolova brings a unique perspective to her role as a language teacher, empowering students to navigate new languages while honoring their cultural roots.



Born and raised in a Russian-speaking environment during the Soviet Union, Sokolova faced the challenge of mastering languages in a context where Russian was predominantly spoken. Her educational journey began at a university where she specialized in foreign languages, graduating in 2002. Amidst the shifting political landscape in Ukraine, she experienced firsthand the importance of not only language fluency but also the cultural implications of multilingualism. This background informs her teaching methods and enhances her ability to connect with students from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

"Many Russian language speakers carry the nuances of their native tongue, which can often sound harsh to English speaking ears. The difference is rooted in the throat-based phonetics of Slavic languages compared to the mouth-based phonetics in English," Sokolova explains. "Understanding these nuances is key to helping students feel comfortable and confident in their language learning journey."

Sokolova's professional journey led her to the role of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Coordinator, where she has taken the initiative to enhance language education for immigrant children. With a certification that allows her to teach from kindergarten through 12th grade, she recognizes the need for tailored approaches to meet the varying levels of language proficiency among students, particularly those who are new to the United States.

"My focus is on creating an environment where students feel supported. Many of my students speak little to no English when they first arrive, and it's vital to provide them with resources that cater to their unique needs," she states. "By implementing strategies that emphasize comprehension and communication, I am working hard to not only teach them English, but also to instill confidence in their abilities."

Through her work in the Florida school system, Sokolova has observed a trend where bilingual education programs often overlook the need for students to fully grasp English, particularly in preparation for standardized testing. Many of her students come from Hispanic backgrounds, and while she values their native language, she emphasizes the importance of mastering English for their academic success.

"Language lives in its environment. To truly learn a language, students must be immersed in it. This is particularly crucial in a diverse state like Florida, where we have a large population of Spanish-speaking students," she asserts. "If we focus solely on their native language without promoting English fluency, we risk their future opportunities."

In addition to her work with students, Sokolova is passionate about reaching out to parents and the broader community to encourage language preservation and education. "I have experienced the struggles of trying to balance my child's native Russian with the demands of a primarily English-speaking environment. I believe that parents should strive to maintain their heritage language while also ensuring their children are proficient in English. It's a delicate balance but crucial for their success."

Sokolova is also venturing into on line language education through her Sunday Spanish School, where she offers courses designed to make language learning accessible and enjoyable. "My goal is to demystify language learning; it shouldn't be overwhelming. I want students and their families to feel empowered to learn and communicate effectively," she explains.

While Sokolova is currently focused on Spanish, she acknowledges her desire to eventually explore Japanese, inspired by her experiences living in Japan. "I have a deep appreciation for languages and culture, and I hope to share that passion with my students."

As she continues her journey as a foreign language educator, Olga Sokolova remains committed to fostering an inclusive environment where language learners thrive. Her work serves as a reminder of the vital role that language plays in bridging cultural divides and promoting understanding in an increasingly interconnected world.

Close Up Radio recently featured Olga Sokolova, Foreign Language Educator, in an interview with Jim Masters on Friday October 3rd at 7pm EST

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For more information about Olga Sokolova, please visit <https://spanishsundayschool.net/>

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