

# DESIGNING AND EQUIPPING YOUR CLASSROOM

When you design your foreign-language classroom, keep in mind that at the heart of this program is the belief that young children must be up and moving and totally, physically involved in the language learning. If possible, leave ample space between desks or tables so that the children can perform the TPR commands without bumping into anything or hurting themselves.

If you have your own classroom, make use of your bulletin boards by turning them into permanent game boards. If you are a traveling teacher, make game boards from heavy poster board and envelopes so that you can carry them with you into the classroom. The boards may also be used to display the teaching posters (included with each *¡Viva el español!* System).

Again, if you have your own classroom, set up a listening center in one corner. Individual children can use it to listen to the conversations, independent exercises, or Little Book stories recorded on the Audio CDs. A listening center also enables children to tape record their own dialogues or stories.

The following is a list of recommended aids for equipping a foreign-language classroom:

Chalkboard

Flannel board and felt cut-outs of vocabulary

Pocket chart

Overhead projector and screen

VCR

Listening center with a tape recorder and language master machine

Audio CD player and Audio CDs

Realia, such as plastic fruit, old clothing, pictures from magazines, dolls, play farm, etc.

A computer would also be a wonderful addition to the elementary foreign-language classroom since there are now wonderful software programs for young language learners. We would suggest in particular the *Ultimate Multimedia Spanish Vocabulary Program*, a CD-ROM-based package, also published by Wright Group/McGraw-Hill. When children begin to read (*System B*) and to use the language creatively, their own stories and poems can be entered and stored in the computer for others to read and enjoy.