

Primary French Immersion - École Shannon Park School



What is Early French Immersion?

Early French Immersion a program designed for students whose first language is not French. This includes children whose first language may not be English such as newcomers. Instructional strategies and materials are designed with this in mind.

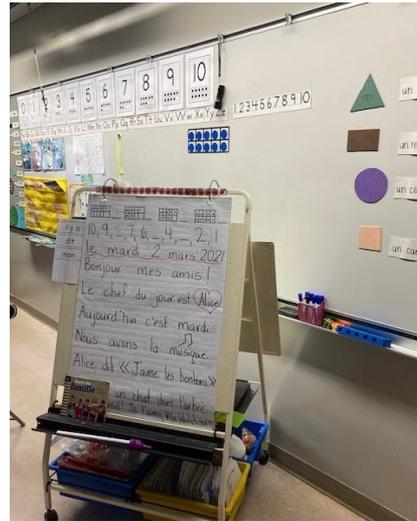
Early French Immersion begins in primary and continues to grade 12.

When considering the Early French Immersion program, ask yourself:

- How well developed are my child's home language skills?
- How might my child respond if understanding the teacher is challenging at the onset?
- How might pre-existing learning, perceptual or auditory challenges play a role in my child's experience?
- Is my child willing to take risks?

Language Acquisition

Students acquire their French language skills in an environment surrounded by French posters, signs, books and other resources. The integration of subjects taught in French is also conducive to language acquisition.



How do young children learn French?

Children learn French in the same stages that they learn English. **At first**, they mostly listen. Initial attempts at speaking usually take the form of single words or broken phrases. For the first month, the classroom teacher speaks both English and French and transitions to mostly French around December.

By approximately **mid-year**, the child understands most of what the teacher says in French as a part of classroom activities. Children are usually speaking most of their French in group learning situations at this stage. They may often reply to the teachers and speak among themselves in English, with the infusion of some French.

EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION (P-12)

*At the end of High School, students receive a **French Immersion Certificate** upon completion of requirements.*

Graduates of the French Immersion Program will be able to :

- ★ Communicate effectively in oral and written French and English;
- ★ Achieve expected learning outcomes of courses taught in French and in English;
- ★ Accept a job where French is the working language, and
- ★ Pursue university or college education in French.

Curriculum

The French Immersion Program follows the same learning outcomes as defined by the Nova Scotia English Provincial Guides, therefore, our students in French Immersion will be learning the same curriculum outcomes as their peers in our English Program.

The Following is the Link to EECD [Education and Early Childhood Development] curriculum outcomes:

<https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/french-immersion>

BENEFITS OF EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION

- ★ Students have significant advantages when they speak more than one language. It increases their competitiveness in an increasingly global job market.
- ★ Strengthens their problem-solving, reasoning and creative thinking skills.
- ★ Develop their understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures;
- ★ Bilingualism can enhance some aspects of academic and cognitive growth (improved literacy, mental flexibility, creativity, divergent thinking, higher order thinking, expanded view of the world).
- ★ Enhance their first-language and overall literacy skills.

THE EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO ENABLE ALL STUDENTS TO...

- ★ Communicate effectively in French using listening, speaking, viewing, reading, writing as well as other means or representation
- ★ Work and study purposefully, both independently and in groups
- ★ Solve problems individually and collaboratively
- ★ Encourage personal development of skills, attitudes and values
- ★ Express ideas and feelings using various forms of communication
- ★ Locate, evaluate, adapt, create and share information using a wide range of sources and technologies.

ENGLISH INSTRUCTION

- Formal English Instruction begins in Grade 3.
- English reading abilities will not develop at the same rate as P-3 students in the English Program, however, research shows that over time, immersion students do as well, if not better, than their English counterparts. (Bournot-Trites et Tellowitz, 2002)
- Research shows that second-language learning does not negatively affect the first language, that students rapidly catch up once English is introduced and, that many students surpass their peers by Grades 5 or 6, and that skills in French can and do transfer to English. (Renée Bourgoïn)

SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS

As is the case for all students...

- Students from grades primary to grade three will be eligible for Early Literacy Support in French.
- The Teaching Support Team [TST] and Student Support Teams [SPT] will explore supports and make decisions about the student's program.
- If a student is having difficulty meeting program expectations, French Immersion students can be placed on Adaptations and Individual Program Plans (IPP).

PARENT/GUARDIAN ROLE

- Parents/Guardians can support by providing a rich and supportive environment in their child's **first** language. Helping to develop your child's oral language will strengthen their literacy skills.
- French Immersion Programs are specifically designed for children of parents and/or guardians who do not speak French.
- Students will learn at different rates depending on their aptitude, work habits, motivation and organization.

Ways to Help Your Child Prepare for School

- Read with your child and talk about books
- Familiarize your student with book knowledge (directionality of print, reading from front to back, pictures supporting text, etc...)
- Practice writing their name and pencil grip
- Letter and sound recognition
- Practice developing fine motor skills (printing, colouring, cutting, lego, puzzles, painting)

Preparation and Support for Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to access the following resources:

- French section of community libraries.
- HRCE website and French links
- CPF (Canadian Parents for French)
- French language television
- Extracurricular and community activities which promote French language and culture.

Something to Think About...

In Immersion, it's important to keep in mind that while children are learning in French they may not feel comfortable speaking in French outside of their learning environment. Requiring your children to show others or translate is not an authentic or constructive experience for them.

Merci

If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

- The Shannon Park Admin Team and Primary Teachers