

How can I help my child learn French?

Outline prepared for parents
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French teachers understand that parents do not always have a knowledge of French.

Remember... Your children are the learners !

A parent's *role* is to support their learning!

Learning to learn is a very important skill to acquire.

**Keys for Success in Learning
French As a Second Language**

Some of the most important things for success in French are....

Parents need....

1) to show an overall **interest in their child's learning** (English and French)

2) to let your child know, in actions and in words, that **you value the learning of French**...through homework support and so much more.

Homework support in French.

- Homework is the student's responsibility!
- Good to establish French homework routines.
- Set aside **time** to sit with your child *to support* homework efforts.
- Remember: Learning a second language requires more 1 on 1 assistance.
- Be a learner! Let your child teach you. Ask Questions. Model wonderings.
- Look up new words. Keep a box of learned French words. Add new words on index cards each week!
- Explore your French teacher's BLOG and links.

Homework Tips

- Establish French homework routines
- Do not limit homework time to what is assigned.
- Ask your child questions about what is being taught.
- Suggest your child teach you (vocabulary & structures).
- Have your child read to you....

- (the vocabulary, songs, comptines, or readings learned in class)
- Listen to your child read you their work.
 - * If you do not understand listen and then ask the child to tell you what was said. Be a reading coach.
 - * Ask questions in your own language to check for understanding.
 - Review new theme vocabulary thoroughly ASAP at the start of units.
 - Purchase a French/English dictionary for home and school!
 - Purchase other French resources (e.g., a dictionary of synonyms & antonyms, a book of common French expressions, a French atlas)
 - Model dictionary/internet use at home.
 - Encourage your child to use a dictionary
 - visual dictionary - Grades 1 & 2
 - regular French/English dictionary - Grade 3 & up
 - Encourage your child to illustrate definitions.
 - Make vocabulary or number flashcards.
 - Visit suggested web sites for research
 - Visit the local library.
 - Suggestion....Take out books (Eng. & Fr.) related to school themes.
 - Dictée (Your child can tape his own dictée and play it back)
 - Find a tutor (e.g., a high school student, a classmate's parent, or afterschool tutoring programs)

Finally, don't forget to acknowledge & praise every small step!

Other Support

You can choose to expose your children to French outside of school in many other ways. The greater exposure they have to hearing a second language the better. In order to learn any language they need to hear and see that language as much as possible.

SPEAKING

- Have your children teach you French.
- Encourage your child to talk with family/ friend who speaks French.
- Go shopping in Gatineau or Montreal.
- Go to a restaurant in Quebec.
- Ask your child to tell you about French signs and advertisements you pass when you are driving or that you receive in the mail.
- Play a French board game.
- Have a French family night or breakfast.
- Look for summer camps in French.
- Sign your children up for French activities.

READING

- **Reinforce the importance of reading in ANY language!!!**
- Visit the local library. Take out French books regularly.
- Encourage reading in French. Start with picture books or books they

already know in English.

- Order from French Scholastics.
- Go to Gatineau for age level books.
- Highlight or circle on a page every word they already know.
- Remember enough words are similar in both languages.
- Help your child use context and picture clues.
- Focus on what they do understand in a text rather on what they don't.
- Question: Do they know a word they don't understand in English?
Does the word look or sound like an English one?
- Take turns reading & use different voices.

WRITING

- Use a variety of references (dictionary, a Bescherelle: a verb conjugation book, French CD Roms, websites).
- Create a personal French thematic visual dictionary for new words.
- Label things at home (e.g., une chaise, un lit, une table).
- Create a wordsearch with the theme vocabulary.
- Play hangman with theme vocabulary.

LISTENING

- Purchase French books on tape.
- Encourage your child to listen to French TV, Radio, CD's, Videos.
This helps children acquire vocabulary and proper pronunciation.
- A little mandatory French TV is good!

- * cartoons, sports, game shows, videos
- * e.g., Radio-Canada, TFO, miniTFO
- French Radio (e.g., Radio Canada 90.7, CKTF 104.1)
- French Music (e.g., Carmen Campagne, Annie Brocoli)
- Have a French movie night. (Select French language on DVD's)
- Watch a familiar favourite movie you've already seen in English.
- Check out your teacher's Blog for links to French youtube songs.

INTERNET

- FSL Ontario Curriculum
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/fsl.html>
- Social Studies Ontario Curriculum
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/sshg.html>
- French Homework Toolbox <http://www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca/>

Some additional sites...

- Visit www.tfo.org
- Mini-TFO <http://www1.tfo.org/mini/Accueil>
- Online Dictionary Example... <http://translate.reference.com/>
- Le monde des petits <http://www.mondedestitounis.fr/>
- French as a second language activities <http://fslactivities.ca/>
- French games for learners <http://www.french-games.net/>
- <http://www.languageguide.org/french/>
- Up to ten <http://uptoten.com/?cl=fr>
- http://www.literacycenter.net/lessonview_fr.php

- <http://www.iletaitunehistoire.com/>
- <http://lasouris-web.org/>
- <http://www.digitaldialects.com/French.htm>
- <http://www.teletoonretro.com/fr/>
- <http://www.clicksouris.com/>
- Canadian Parents for French <http://cpf.ca/en/>
- <https://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/gr/>

GAMES

Flashcards (Index cards from dollar store!)

- Make flash cards for theme vocabulary and numbers for review.
- Play sorting games (e.g., sounds, rhymes, or beginning letters).
- Play a memory game. Draw the picture on one and write the word on another. Mix them up and put them upside down on the table. Your child turns two cards over. If the picture and the word match, he/she reads the word, takes the pair, and plays again. If not, cards are turned over and it is your turn! Or he/she tries again.
- Make two sets of picture flashcards with no words. Child tries to find a pair. If he/she succeeds and correctly names the object, then he/she takes the pair, and so on.

Bingo

- Play number BINGO in French.
- Make your own vocabulary BINGO game.

Flying word

— Put words on a table. Child reads them. He/she close their eyes. You take away one or more word(s) and then the child guesses the one(s) taken away. This can be done with pictures as well.

Hide and Seek a Word

— Game with 2 or more people. Who can find the most words with the “ch” sound? Who can find the word ----- first in the story.

Games on the Web in French (e.g., TFO.org, see teacher’s BLOG)

Buy games in French (Scrabble, Speak’n’Spell, Leap Pad)

Final Words

Show your child you are committed to their learning.

Be enthusiastic and positive.

Read to them often in English.

Expose them to outside French experiences

Remember learning a new language does not come easily. It takes time.

Your child needs encouragement, support, and lots of praise.

“When schools and parents work together *it is* our students *who* are the winners!” (Quote taken from Peel District School Board)