

French Immersion Programming



Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Edmonton Public School Division

- About 4300 students enrolled in 2023
- Established in 1974
- Two entry points:
 - Early FIM (Kindergarten or Grade 1)
 - Late FIM (Grade 7)
- 15 Elementary schools, 5 Junior High Schools and 2 Senior High Schools offer the early immersion program
- One Junior High School offers the late immersion program

The Advantages of Second Language Education

- Canada is a bilingual country
- Opportunities for travel
- Employment advantages
- Cognitive advantages
- Enhanced academic performance



Photo by Júnior Ferreira on Unsplash

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Literature Review on the Impact of Second-Language Learning

BACKGROUND

Imagine if someone told you that you could take one step that would enable you to travel more freely, get paid more, read some of the world's best literature, perform better in school, increase your focus, and enhance your understanding of other cultures. Such claims seem almost too good to be true. The fortunate news is that second-language learning is the one step that learners can take that will lead to these and other benefits.

LITERATURE REVIEW

on the Impact of Second-Language Learning



The Alberta Teachers' Association

Alberta Literacy Council

Alberta Literacy Council

CASLT (2017)

Advantages of Learning French

- Over 300 million people around the world speak French (2017)
- French is the fifth most spoken language in the world
- French is a good base for learning other languages

Advantages of French Immersion

- Learning a language changes how children think and solve problems.
- Students could live, work and pursue post-secondary studies in French, English, or both languages.
- Second-language learning promotes the development of cultural identities and contributes to a deeper appreciation for diverse perspectives.
- Learning additional languages has a positive impact on students' first language.

What's the Difference Between French as a Second Language and French Immersion?

French Immersion	French as a Second Language
French is the language of instruction in multiple subjects.	French is the language of instruction in one subject.
Students begin French instruction in Kindergarten or Gr 1 or in Grade 7.	The French as a Second Language program primarily begins in Grade 4 and continues to Grade 12.
Students will have received more than 7,000 hours of instruction in French by the end of Grade 12.	Students will receive 95 hours of instruction per year (140-160 min per week) Grades 4 through 9.

Diverse Learners in French Immersion

- All students can learn another language.
- Language learning has multiple academic benefits for all students, including those with diverse cognitive and language abilities.
- By grade 6, research shows that FIM students outperform their anglophone counterparts on standardized assessments.

What If We Don't Speak French?

French Immersion is **intended** for a child whose first language is not French. Parents do not need to speak French for their child to be successful in French Immersion!



<http://news.fiu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Father-reading-to-child.jpg>

How can I support my child when I don't speak French?

The same way parents do in the regular program! You can read with your child, notice patterns around you, and talk about what they learned in school that day.



Photo by [feelgoodjunkie](#) on [Pixabay](#)

How can I support my child when I don't speak French?

[Text to Speech](#)

[Google Translate](#) or [DeepL](#)

[Visual Dictionary](#)

[Read & Write \(Google Chrome Extension\)](#)

My Child's Learning

MY CHILD'S LEARNING: A PARENT RESOURCE

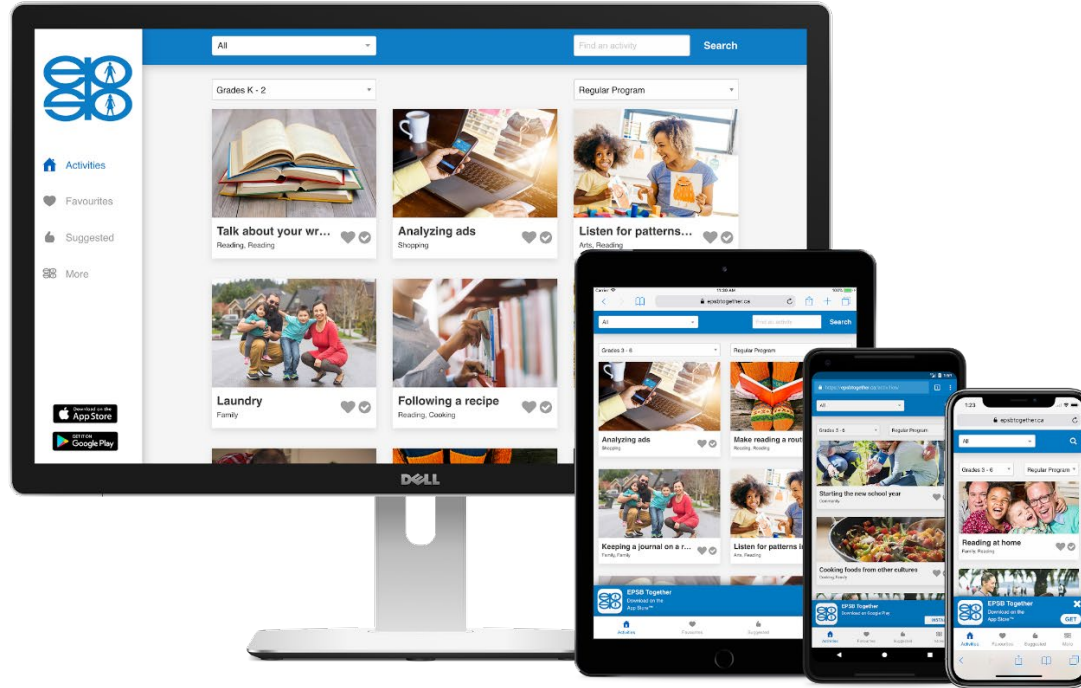


French Immersion: [Yes, You Can Help!](#)




Photo by [Bermix Studio](#) on [Unsplash](#)

EPSB Together!



Sample Activity: K - Grade 2

[← All](#) **TV Talk**



[♥](#) [👁](#) [📤](#)

TV Talk


How:

Watch a simple French TV program or YouTube video with your child. Try the Radio Canada website (ici.radio-canada.ca/jeunes...colaire). Have them talk about different parts of the show (e.g., who? what? where? when? why? how?)

Why:

Summarizing helps your child show that they know the most important parts of a story and develops their vocabulary.

[← Activities](#)



[♥](#) [👁](#) [f](#) [🐦](#) [▼](#)

Counting Money

How

When purchasing items in a store or at a restaurant, encourage your child to estimate how much the bill will be and then compare that to the total price and see how close they are. If you pay with cash, have your child determine what bills and/or coins can be used to pay. If change is returned, have your child double-check that the change is correct. Have them count in the target language.

Why:

This activity helps your child become more familiar with money and builds efficiency when counting money.

French Immersion Kindergarten



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How old does our child have to be to start Kindergarten?



When does registration start?

Schools will begin accepting new student registrations:

**Open now until 4pm on
April 14, 2023.**

French Immersion Kindergarten in Alberta



Speaking in the Target Language



Things you can do at home to support your child's French language learning

- Ask your child to teach you some new French words!
- Review the French vocabulary of the week or month with your child.
- Listen to, repeat, recite, sing along with your child as he shares his latest French song, rhyme or story.

French Immersion Kindergarten in Alberta : A Handbook for Parents, Alberta Education 2012

Read and talk with your child

- Reading aloud to your child in English builds receptive language skills and vocabulary acquisition.
- Comprehension skills in English transfer to French.
- Discuss what you read with your child. Ask questions and make predictions.
- Borrow French books from the public library.

Writing



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Support Systems

- Teachers & Principals
- Edmonton Public Schools
 - Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education (IISLE)
 - Student Transportation
- [Canadian Parents for French](#)
- [CPF Alberta Branch](#)
- [Alliance Française](#)