

An Information Session for Parents

CPF *Canadian Parents for French*
Prince Edward Island

Considering Early Immersion?

Public Schools Branch



Education, Early
Learning and Culture

Welcome/ Bienvenue

Program/Agenda

- ✓ **What is Early Immersion**
- ✓ What are the outcomes of the Early Immersion program?
- ✓ How can I help my child? And more....



French Immersion on Prince Edward Island

- Levels of responsibility : Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture, Public Schools Branch and Schools
- Registration procedures
- Bussing and transfers



Advantages of learning a second language

- Intellectual Potential
- Scholastic Achievement
- Effect on first language
- Cross-cultural skills
- Economic potential

What is Early French Immersion? (EFI)

- A French Immersion program with an entry point typically in Kindergarten with students continuing to Grade 12.
- French immersion students achieve the same curriculum outcomes as students registered in the English program however their language of instruction is in French
- **Although the outcomes are the same the FI program does not mirror the English program**
- Subject areas include: French Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science, Health. English Language Arts starts in Grade 4.

What is the goal of the Early French Immersion program (EFI)?

To enable students to become functionally fluent in French and English by the end of Grade 12, that is:

- To be able and willing to participate easily in conversation in French
- To be able to pursue post-secondary education appropriate to their abilities and interests with French as the language of instruction, and
- To be able to accept employment where French is the language of work

Cultural appreciation

To enable students to gain an understanding and appreciation of Francophone cultures.



How much time are the students immersed in French?

- Kindergarten to Grade 3 = 90-100% or 270-300 minutes a day
- Grade 4-5-6 = 68% or 204 minutes a day
- Grade 7-9(continuing) = 50 % or 150 minutes a day
- Grade 7 -8 (late) = 67% or 200 minutes a day
- Grade 9 (late) = 50% or 150 minutes a day
- Grade 10-12 = 25% or 75 minutes a day

Reasons to Choose Early French Immersion

- Literacy skills
- Confidence
- Accent
- Decision making for parents
- Brain development



Contributing to success

To help you make the best decision for your child, consider:

- ✓ Listening skills
- ✓ History of early language learning
- ✓ Attitudes towards learning
- ✓ Imitates easily
- ✓ Preschool experience and teacher comments

French Immersion and our school



- # of FI Kindergarten classes
- Student/teacher ratio
- Teacher introductions
- Classroom visit (at end of this session)
- History of FI in our school
- Welcome to Kindergarten in Spring/ Open House in Spring

Immersion approach to Kindergarten

- Play Based Learning Environment
- Start the year in French
- Many and varied examples
- Use of concrete objects
- Showing or drawing pictures
- Miming, gestures and facial expressions
- Teachers speak clearly and slowly
- Repetition
- Use key words for instructions
- Songs



Preparing for Kindergarten

- Social skills
- **Independent:** Boot, hats, zippers, bathroom
- Familiarization with school
- Buddy system



Literacy plays an important role

- Read stories aloud at bedtime
- Sing songs, nursery rhymes & poems, putting the emphasis on similarities/differences in sounds
- Help your child to print his/her name
- Celebrate and encourage your child's early attempts to communicate
- Listen to your child
- Encourage them to talk
- Literacy supports in the school
- www.peireads.com/





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Volunteers

Advocates

Opportunities

Information

How Can Parents Help at Home?

- Learn as much as you can about the French immersion program.
- Show your child that you are committed to the program.
- Encourage your child and show an interest in what your child is learning.
- Find ways to expose your child to French language and to use it outside of school time. Borrow French books from the public library, listen to children's music by French artists, watch some French television programs and visit French communities.





- Questions ?
- Merci pour votre participation