

La Maternelle

FAQs

*for Kindergarten parents
who are considering
the French Immersion
Program in Saanich*



Frequently asked questions

What will my child learn in French Immersion Kindergarten?

A new language is acquired by listening to and reproducing the models introduced by the teacher.

Your child will learn French letters and their sounds, read names of their peers and basic sight words, sing French songs and understand poems, be able to respond in sentences and ask questions

How much French is spoken in kindergarten?

100% French ...eventually! The amount of French spoken in September is very different from the amount spoken in June. Educators use gestures and visual cues, rather than translating, to help with comprehension. English is used at the outset to establish routines, and in the event of safety issues.

Will my child start speaking French in Kindergarten?

Yes! Educators use a variety of instructional elements that allow children to comprehend and communicate in French quickly.

How can I help my child?

You can help by reading in English, playing number and alphabet games and encouraging any printing or fine motor skill attempts. Listen to children's music by French artists, watch some French television programs, and find ways to expose your child to French (e.g. French summer camps, activities sponsored by Canadian Parents for French)

French Immersion is not intended for children whose parents speak French at home. If your family is Francophone, we recommend that you consider the Francophone program or English kindergarten.

Other ways to support my child...

Practice removing and putting on their own shoes, tie laces, button and zip clothing, putting lunch kit in and out of backpack by themselves, practice printing their names in lowercase, counting groups of objects, read picture books daily, play card games (Go Fish, etc.) to practice number recognition and counting

Can my child join French Immersion in Grade 1?

Yes, your child can enter the F.I. program in Grade 1 since the Kindergarten program is optional in British Columbia. However, if you know you are considering F. I. program, it is recommended that your child be part of a Kindergarten classroom experience since children in F.I. kindergarten receive a significant amount of French oral language instruction (approximately 900 hours!) Grade One offers a structured and intensive Literacy and Numeracy programme. Having a strong French language base provides young learners with increased confidence and communication skills.

When do children learn English?

It is important to remember that your child is only immersed in French five hours a day. In Saanich, English Language Literacy is introduced in the later part of Grade 3.

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Additional information:

- The French Immersion programme offers the opportunity for non-francophone students to become bilingual in both English and French and to learn about another culture.
- In the French Immersion programme, French is not only a subject, but a language of instruction and a means of communication.
- All Kindergarten children, in the English and in the French Immersion programme, follow the same curriculum as prescribed by the Ministry of Education.

Kindergarten Online Resources

Ministry of Education

B.C.'s New Curriculum

CPF

Canadian Parents for French

Saanich Chapter

Please visit our District website at www.sd63.bc.ca to access online resources on **Early Learning and Language Programs.**



French Immersion Schools in Saanich

Deep Cove Elementary

(250) 656-7254

Keating Elementary

(250) 652-9261

Bayside Middle School

(250) 652-1135

Stelly's High School

(250) 652-4401

Please contact the school principal if you have any question about the French Immersion programme or to make an appointment for a visit.

