

KINDERGARTEN OR GRADE 1 FRENCH IMMERSION

Some helpful DO's and DON'Ts to help your child get ready

Do!

Relax! Do the same as if your child was going to English Kindergarten or Grade 1. There is nothing extra that you need to do to prepare your child for French Immersion.

Encourage your child to be independent.

Studies show that immersion students starting Kindergarten or Grade 1 face the same issues as English students (e.g. separating from parents and learning classroom rules and routines).

Rest assured that your child has a lot to learn in Kindergarten and Grade 1 besides French

(i.e. social skills, motor skills, self-sufficiency). An important objective for your child's first experience in French Immersion is to enjoy coming to school feeling safe and confident.

Play fun learning games in English or in your home language. Before your child starts Kindergarten:

- Teach the alphabet and introduce capital and lower case letters
- Teach your child how to print his/her name
- Introduce number recognition to 10 or 20
- Play counting, colour, and shape games

Foster a positive attitude towards reading.

Read aloud to your child every day in English or in your home language. Play reading games: read a story and ask your child to retell it in his/her own words. Stop before the end of the story and ask what might happen next. Visit your public library often.



Don't!

Tell your child their school is "different", or that they won't understand what the teacher is saying.

DO: Tell your child the teacher will be speaking French, but that it is OK for them to talk to the teacher in English. Your child will accept French as a normal part of the day and will have fun learning different ways to say things!

Worry because you do not speak French. The program was designed for children of non French-speaking parents. You can support your child by having a positive attitude about learning French.

Worry about your child's English skills suffering. Literacy skills learned in French transfer to English (the languages are related and share the same alphabet).

Compare your child to others. No two children develop at the same rate. Learn more about the French Immersion program by visiting:

- (a) Your school board's website
- (b) CPF Ontario's website at on.cpf.ca
- (c) The French as a Second Language Homework Toolbox at fslhomeworktoolbox.ca