

FRENCH IS NOT REQUIRED TO HELP!

Tips from experienced parents

As a child's second language skills develop he/she will transfer the skills learned from one language to the other. Give your child plenty of opportunity to read, write and express his/her thoughts and ideas. This will encourage them to develop their skills in both languages.

- Read to and with your child in your home language(s).
- Listen to your child read in French. Encourage comprehension by asking questions, but don't ask for a translation.
- Pay attention to your child's learning style and decide if they learn visually, orally (auditory) or kinesthetically (tactile).
- Help your child with math using the same techniques you normally would in English or in your home language (e.g. adding and subtracting with coins or marbles). For written math problems, teach your child to concentrate on the exact meaning of each word and draw pictures to illustrate the problem and solution.
- Provide French reference materials, especially a good French/English dictionary. In later years, a French dictionary and books of French verbs and conjugations, grammar and spelling, and common French expressions and idioms will be very useful.
- For social studies and science, your child can explain the topic and receive your help.
- Make French a part of your child's life. Visit French websites, encourage French reading, listening to French music and watching French TV and movies. Visit your school and public library for materials to borrow such as French music CDs, magazines, DVDs, and books on CD. Try French computer games and software; refer to our Online French Resources and French Apps tip sheets.
- Encourage your child to take part in French extra-curricular events and activities. Visit FrenchStreet.ca, an online source of French experiences.
- Travel to Franco-Ontarian communities and French destinations in Canada and overseas to bring French alive for your child.
- Let your child watch extra TV - in French! You can also change the language from English to French on your child's collection of DVDs.



Useful websites

on.cpf.ca
FrenchStreet.ca
fslhomeworktoolbox.ca
idello.org