

Bienvenue

A Guide for Parents of French
Immersion Students
on Home Reading and Best Practice

Profs: Davidson and Higgins

2012

Introduction

- Your children will be learning very important pre-literacy and literacy skills in French this year.
- All children learn in different ways and at differing rates. In order for the home reading program to be successful the individual needs of the learner need to be considered and fostered.

Learning Style

Auditory Learners:

- *prefer or need chanting, singing or rhyming to learn new sounds or concepts

Active Learners:

- *prefer or need to show their learning by moving or by using gestures

Visual Learners:

- *prefer or need visual aids to learn new sounds or concepts

Sensory Learners:

- *prefer or need texture such as objects or materials like fabric, rice, playdoh etc.

Your Child's Learning Style....

- Strategies used by teachers target all learning styles.
- Your child benefits from all strategies and over time you will distinguish his or her preferred learning style by watching how he or she learns (and there may be two or three of them.)

Time

- Many students need extra time to practice pre-literacy and literacy skills such as: rhyming, chanting, singing, consonant sounds, vowel sounds, advanced code (two or more vowels side by side), segmenting (breaking a word into syllables) and blending (putting the sounds or syllables together.)

Our students...

- will learn English language skills even though we as parents worry that it won't happen or that the skills will come too late.
- Much research has been done on the subject.
- Here are some key findings we as Immersion teachers are fascinated by...

Alberta Learning: Information and inspiration for French Immersion Parents - 2002

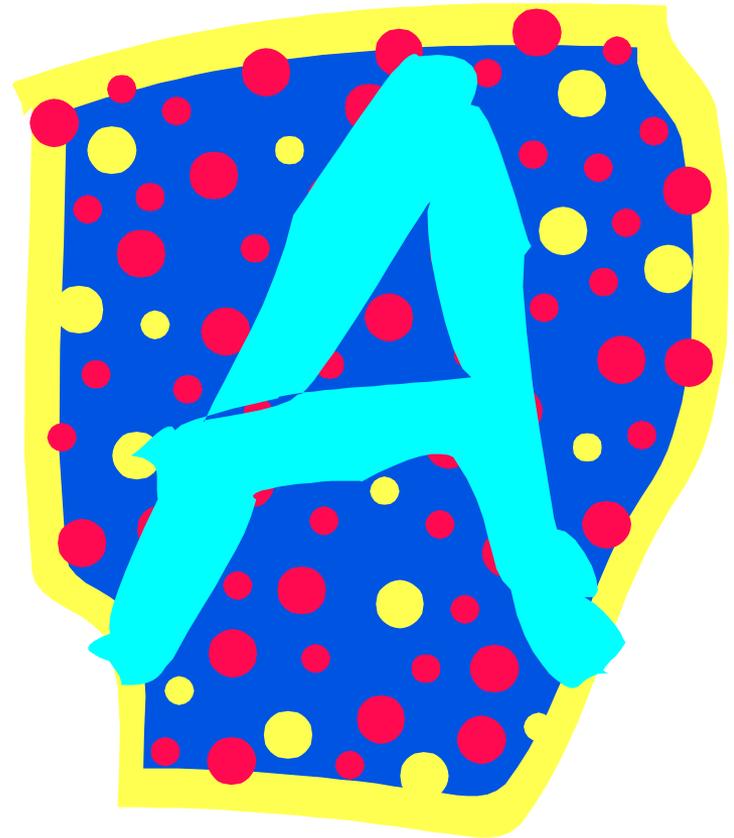
- In a recent review of research on the effects of second language learning on first language literacy skills, authors Monique Bournot-Trites and Ulrike Tellowitz concluded, 'The loss of instructional time in English in favour of the second language has never been shown to have negative effects on the achievement of the first language... One can confidently assume that cognitive abilities acquired in the learning of one language can be put to use in the acquisition and proficiency of another language. In many studies first language skills were shown to be enhanced, even if instruction time in the student's first language was reduced in favour of second language instruction.'

French Immersion Research

- Immersion students typically demonstrate no lags in English speaking and listening comprehension during the primary grades of early total immersion. They usually achieve parity with English control students in literacy-related skills within one or two years of having English language instruction (e.g., Genesee, 1978; Lambert & Tucker, 1972; Swain & Lapkin, 1982). Early total immersion students' ability to catch up to students educated entirely in English within one year suggests that skills acquired in French can be and are transferred to English, and possibly vice versa. Subsequent testing in higher grades, when both languages are used for instruction, has shown that early immersion students continue to perform as well as control students in all English reading and writing skills that have been assessed, including word knowledge, reading comprehension, spelling, writing, and mechanics.
http://docs.cllrnet.ca/NSEL/Current/NSEL_FrenchImmersion08.pdf

Teaching the Sounds

- When we teach sounds in K, Grade 1 and Grade 2 we choose high frequency and easily accessible sounds first. When the student has success with basic consonant and consonant-vowel sounds she or he is motivated to keep learning.



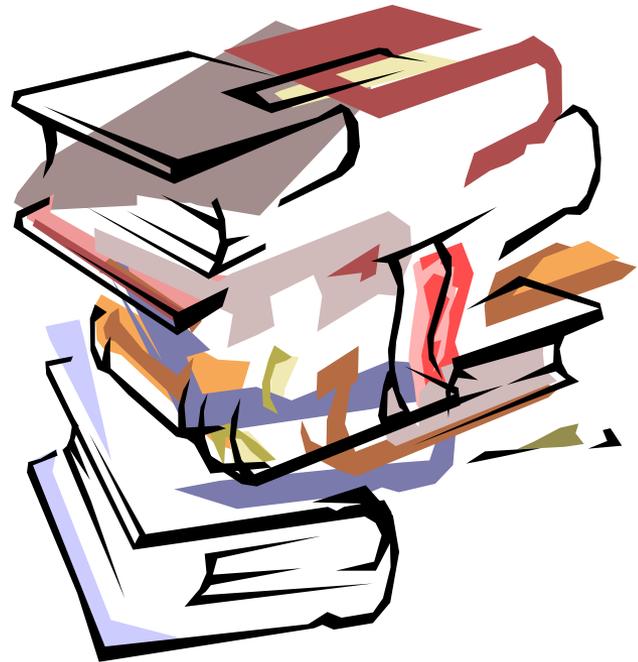
Vowels

- Most French vowels are completely different:
- A comme chat
- E comme fenêtre
- I comme kiwi
- U comme fusée
- Y has 2 sounds:
- I comme kiwi and y comme yoyo

- **The only vowel that sounds the same is:**
O comme robot...however it says o comme orange also

Consonants

- Many consonant sounds are similar in French and English such as:
- b, d, f, k, l, m, n, p, t, v, z
- These sounds will be transferred from English easily



Reversals

- Some diphthongs or complex vowel sounds have similar-looking letters such as:
- on, ou, an, au,
- Many children need time to train their eyes and brain for accurate decoding.
- Please give your child time.



Best Practice-Immersion Reading

- Be vigilant about the true reading level of your child.
- If your young reader makes more mistakes than roughly 5 per book, the level is too high.
- We are concerned that home reading will become a competition. Please make sure the reading time is helping develop literacy skills and not frustrating the young reader.
- Please spend 15 minutes or less on HR.

Immersion reading –fun stuff

- Use as much French as you can.
- Ask your child to teach you some French words or phrases.
- Your child will have fun teaching you!



Best Practice-Home Language Reading

- Read to your child in English and discuss pictures, ideas and predictions.
- Make personal connections to the stories.
- If your child points to a word and asks what the word is, tell him-her.
- Keep on reading aloud in your home language-what fantastic bonding time!

Things to avoid:



- Don't push your child to read independently in the home language if she or he isn't ready.
- Please refrain from explicit English reading instruction.
- In other words don't point to a word and break it down into phonemes and syllables, especially vowel sounds.

In Summary

- Your child is learning phonological awareness using the French code in an explicit manner and will likely become confused if explicit English instruction is going on at the same time.
- There are so many French vowel sounds to learn that your child needs time and patience in order to understand and apply the skills to the words in books.
- Some learners can handle two language codes, however, many cannot and become frustrated learners.

Home Resource



- An information booklet has been e-mailed to you from the office staff.
- *Pronunciation clues and home reading activities are included

Working as a Team



- Consult with your teacher or Mme Higgins about the ideal time to begin home reading in English or the home language.