

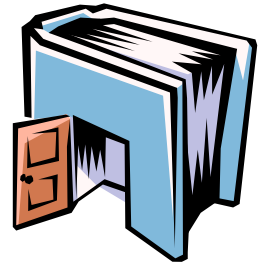
How can I help my child with French?



This is the number one question, as most parents cannot help their children with French at home. Our goal, with the following information **printed for parents**, is to make the transition for you and your child as easy as possible.

French is a relatively easy second language for English speakers to learn because of the close historical relationship between the two languages. The alphabets and sentence structures are very similar. In addition, many English words come from French or from Latin, a common root of both languages.

This is a page from our Level One Parent Information brochure to help you during your child's first years of French.



French Phonetic Alphabet

A - ah	N - en
B - bay	O - oh
C - say	P - pay
D - day	Q - cue
E - eh	R - air
F - eff	S - ess
G - shjay	T - tay
H - ash	U - oo
I - ee	V - vay
J - shgee	W - doo-ble-vay
K - ka	X - eeks
L - el	Y - ee-grec
M - em	Z - zed

Websites

www.cpfnb.com

CPF provides information for parents seeking research data about French immersion, information about programs in other areas of the province or country and links to other French resources.

<http://members.shaw.ca/cpf99>

CPF French Internet Addresses/
Popular Software Lists

<http://scholastic.ca/editions>

Lots of French books and resources

<http://french.about.com/od/funstuff/>

Games, jokes, comics, tongue twisters, and more

www.ouiforkids.com

An online bookstore selling high quality French books and software for children from Kindergarten to grade 12. Also great French resources for teachers!



French Classes

CPF NB has put together a program so that parents can learn French too! You would receive approximately 16 hours of lessons (one night a week) over an 8-week period. Call our Provincial office at 1-877-273-2800 to find out if French Classes for adults are available in your area.

Pronunciation

- *i* pronounced like the long English e (bee)
- *y* sounds like yes, even at the end of a word
- *ou* sounds like group (not out)
- *oy* and *oi* sound like the "wa" in water
- *au* and *eau* have the long o sound (so)
- *ez* has the long a sound (hay)
- while there are significant differences between the sounds of the vowels in the two languages, the consonants are essentially the same
- *h* is always silent in French
- *s* at the end of a word to indicate the plural is silent
- *qu* sounds like k (not like kw as in quick)
- *th* is pronounced t
- *ch* is pronounced like the English sh
- accents change the sounds of vowels: *e* sounds much like the short English e (heck) while *é* has the long a sound (hay)
- stress falls on the last sounded syllable (ami sounds like am-ee)
- when a word begins with a vowel (or a silent h), it is usually joined with the last consonant of the preceding word, it will sound as though your child is reading one word instead of two.



How can I help my child learn?

- Learn how to help your child learn French.
- Read English to your child everyday.
- Look for opportunities to include French in family outings.
- Hire a French Immersion Student as a babysitter and ask them to speak French to your child.
- Buy French books with cassettes or check out books and videos at your local library. (Did you know you can borrow books from most Francophone libraries and the books can be returned to any public library?)
- Buy a French magazine subscription in your child's name.
- Encourage your child to watch French-language television programs.
- Find or help start a French summer day camp.
- Go to a CPF Family Weekend Camp.
- Look for exchanges when your child is older or encourage them to work as a French summer camp counsellor.
- Always stay positive and support your child. Remember, parents can learn French along with their children, so do language-learning activities as a family.

What can I do to help my child with homework?

Many parents either have a limited background in French or do not speak the language. If this is the case, please don't feel alarmed. The most important factor is your encouragement and the positive support you are able to give your child. You should make homework a top priority at home. You should provide necessary supplies and a quiet homework environment, set aside a time everyday when homework should be done, provide praise and support. If you are concerned about the length of homework assignments check with your child's teacher about homework expectations. You and your child's teacher must work together as a team that is committed to your child's progress. The secret to building and maintaining that relationship is through **communication**. Research indicates if a child is having problems in the French immersion program, they will most likely have the same problems in the English program as learning difficulties are not as a rule language related.

How can I get the most from parent-teacher conferences?

Think about what you want to learn from the meeting. Write down a list of your questions and comments; don't rely on your memory! Some examples could be: What is meant by _____? How much homework is expected? What testing methods are used? Have there been any incidents at school involving my child? Does he/she have good work habits? Are there any missing homework assignments? What do you see as his strengths and weaknesses? How well does he/she work with other students? Did you know he is especially interested in _____? Is extra help available? What can I do at home to support his/her learning?

If you are not sure of what the teacher means, ask questions. If there is not enough time to discuss everything that you think is important, make another appointment with the teacher.

Discuss the conference with your child. Talk about both his/her strong and weak points in school. If he/she needs help, talk about what will be done to provide this assistance, or what you can do together.

Remember that teachers are human too! Some get even more nervous about these meetings than parents do. Always remember that your objective is for you and the teacher to become partners in supporting your child's education.

*Join Canadian Parents for French
for answers and support as your child discovers French
Visit: www.cpfnb.com or call 1-877-273-2800*

Promoting opportunities for young Canadians to learn and use French

