

Getting Ready for French Immersion Kindergarten or Grade 1



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.



DO: Encourage your child to be independent. Studies show that the biggest challenges faced by French Immersion students starting Kindergarten are the same as those faced by English program students. (e.g. separating from parents and learning classroom rules and routines).



DO: Keep in mind 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 that they enjoy coming to school and feel safe and confident.



DO: Play fun learning games in English and/or your home language. You can do the following if your child is entering Kindergarten:

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



DO: Foster a positive attitude towards reading. Read aloud to your child every day in English and/or your home language. Play reading games: read a story and ask your child to retell it in their own words. Stop before the end of the story and ask them what might happen next. Visit your local library often.



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!



DO NOT: Tell your child they are going to a "different" school or program, or that they won't understand what the teacher is saying. The way the teacher speaks and organizes situations in the classroom will convey meaning.



DO NOT: Worry because you do not speak French.

The French Immersion program was designed for children of non-French speaking parents. You can support your child by having a positive attitude about learning French, showing interest in what they are studying, and getting involved at school. Also, learn more about the French Immersion program by visiting your school division's website and www.frenchforlife.ca



DO NOT: Worry that your child's English skills will suffer. Literacy skills learned in French transfer easily to English (the languages are related and share the same alphabet). Your child lives in an area where English is the dominant language and is surrounded by a rich English environment.



DO NOT: Compare your child to others. No two children develop at the same rate.

