

La Maternelle



FAQs

for Kindergarten parents

who are considering

the French Immersion Program in Saanich

Frequently asked questions

What will my child learn in French Immersion Kindergarten?

A new language is acquired by listening to and reproducing the models introduced by the teacher.

Your child will be introduced to French letters and their sounds, read names of their peers and basic sight words, French songs and poems. Students will also practice asking and responding to questions in French.

How much French is spoken in kindergarten?

The amount of French spoken in September gradually increases throughout the year and, by June, French is spoken 100% of instructional time. Educators use gestures and visual cues, rather than translating in English, to help with comprehension. English is used at the outset to establish routines and to communicate important safety expectations.

Will my child start speaking French in Kindergarten?

Yes! Educators use a variety of instructional elements and best practices to facilitate French learning and communication.

How can I help my child?

You can help your child by reading in English, playing number and alphabet games and encouraging any printing or fine motor skill attempts. Finding ways to infuse the French language and its culture in your home is encouraged. These may include French music, French television programs, and other opportunities such as French Summer Camps and activities sponsored by Canadian Parents for French.

French Immersion is not intended for children whose parents speak French at home. If your family is Francophone, we recommend that you consider the Francophone program or English kindergarten.



Other ways to support my child...

Some skills are useful to have acquired prior to entering kindergarten such as being able to remove and put on their own shoes, tie their shoe laces, button and zip up their clothing. Other helpful skills to learn are how to put their lunch kit in and out of a backpack by themselves, how to print their name in lowercase, recognize and count groups of objects, listen to picture books daily, play card games (Go Fish, etc.)

Can my child join French Immersion in Grade 1?

Yes, your child can enter the F.I. program in Grade 1 since the Kindergarten program in British Columbia is optional. We do recommend that your child be part of a F.I. Kindergarten classroom experience since they will be exposed to approximately 900 hours of French oral language instruction during that year.

Grade One offers a structured and intensive Literacy and Numeracy program. Having a strong French language foundation from their F.I. Kindergarten experience provides young learners with increased confidence and communication skills when they enter Grade 1.

When do children learn English?

It is important to remember that your child is only immersed in French five hours a day. In Saanich, the English Language Literacy program is introduced in Grade 4.



Additional information:

- The major goal of French Immersion is to provide the opportunity for non-francophone students to become bilingual in English and French.
- In the French Immersion programme, French is not only a subject, but a language of instruction and a means of communication.
- All Kindergarten children, in the English and in the French Immersion program, follow the same curriculum as prescribed by the Ministry of Education.

Kindergarten Online Resources

Ministry of Education

B.C.'s New Curriculum ([//curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/fral/K](http://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/fral/K))

CPF

Canadian Parents for French Saanich Chapter
(<http://bc-yk.cpf.ca/chapter/saanich/>)

Please visit our District website at www.saanichschools.ca to access online resources on **Early Learning** and **Language Programs**.

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French Immersion Schools in Saanich

Deep Cove Elementary

(250) 656-7254

Keating Elementary

(250) 652-9261

Bayside Middle School

(250) 652-1135

Stelly's High School

(250) 652-4401

Please contact the school principal if you have any questions about the French Immersion program or to make an appointment for a visit.

