

Capsule 1 The joy of living and learning in French

In day-to-day life

- ▶ Language development is the foundation of literacy.
- ▶ Parents are the best guides for their children. You are your children's favourite models: they love to hear you speak to them!
- ▶ Everything that children learn in their mother tongue is transferable to French.
- ▶ The more you speak with your children, the more elaborate their vocabulary will be. They will know a variety of words they can use in order to express themselves.

Did you know that...?

- ▶ Bilingual children between four and eight years of age have better problem-solving skills.
Source: www.srdc.org
- ▶ Bilingualism is an asset in life. It opens the door to a wealth of opportunities in Ontario, in Canada and elsewhere in the world.

Suggested activities

- ▶ With your children, have fun singing songs in French. See Activity 1.

Discoveries to make:

This table shows a few examples of words that children learn according to their age.

2 to 4 years old

- ▶ hands
- ▶ arms
- ▶ feet
- ▶ ears
- ▶ legs
- ▶ nose
- ▶ head
- ▶ eyes
- ▶ back
- ▶ hair
- ▶ stomach

4 to 5 years old

- ▶ teeth
- ▶ shoulders
- ▶ nails
- ▶ cheeks
- ▶ elbows
- ▶ lips
- ▶ forehead
- ▶ neck
- ▶ chin
- ▶ knees
- ▶ thumbs
- ▶ heels

5 to 6 years old

- ▶ eyelashes
- ▶ nostrils
- ▶ eyebrows
- ▶ wrists

Source: *Moi, j'apprends en parlant*, Rosine DesChênes, Édition Chenelière Éducation, 2008



Capsule 1 for parents

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Learning another language gives your children an undeniable advantage and does not interfere at all with maintaining their mother tongue.

Quick Tips

- ✓ Regularly teach your children new words and have fun having them repeat these words.
- ✓ Invite your children to pick a book and tell you the story. They can use vocabulary they learned while enjoying “adapting” the story.
- ✓ Watch television shows or DVDs in French together.
- ✓ Listen to songs and nursery rhymes in French with your child, and enjoy singing or reciting them.
- ✓ Attend a French-language performance or cultural celebration. Your child will then see that many other people also speak French.

Available resources

Many resources are free. Just enquire at the school, the school board or organizations in the community.

In the community:

- Local or school library
- Early Years Centre
- Community resource centre
- Teachers
- French-language bookstores
- Regional Francophone association
- Ministry of Children and Youth Services

On the Internet:

- www.librairieeducentre.com
- www.petitmonde.com
- www.archambault.ca
- www.renaud-bray.com
- www.scholastic.ca
- www.tfo.org
- www.ldac-taac.ca/index-f.asp
- www.investirdanslenfance.ca
- www.naitreetgrandir.com/fr
- www.toupty.com
- www.fr.boowakwala.com
- www.auxpetitesmains.free.fr
- www.petitestetes.com
- www.envolerie.com

