



Early French Immersion Program

Information Session 2025



Halifax

Regional Centre for Education

Bienvenue à LeMarchant-St.Thomas!





Goals

- To provide information about the Early French Immersion Program
- To discuss the benefits of learning French as a Second Language
- To answer possible questions



What is Early French Immersion?

French Immersion is a program designed for students whose first language is not French.

Instructional strategies and materials are designed with this in mind.

Early French Immersion begins in **primary** and continues to grade 12.

The French Immersion program is open to *all* students regardless of their first language.



Early French Immersion Schools

HRCE has 26 elementary schools offering Early French Immersion.





French Immersion in Nova Scotia

The Early French Immersion Program began in 1977.

The Late Immersion Program (Grade 7-12) began in 1985.





Percentage of Instruction in French

Primary - Grade 2	90%-100% (varies due to Music and Physical Education)
Grades 3-6	80%- 85% (formal English instruction is introduced)
Grades 7-9	approximately 70%
Grades 10-12	minimum of 50% (9 of 18 credits)



Glisse ou
roule?!
Slide or roll?!





French Immersion P-12

A French Immersion Certificate is awarded at High School graduation upon completion of program requirements.

High school students must complete 50% of their courses in French to receive this certificate.



Curriculum

Early French Immersion students follow the *same* curriculum as their peers in the English program for subjects other than language. However, some of the language outcomes are specific to learning French.



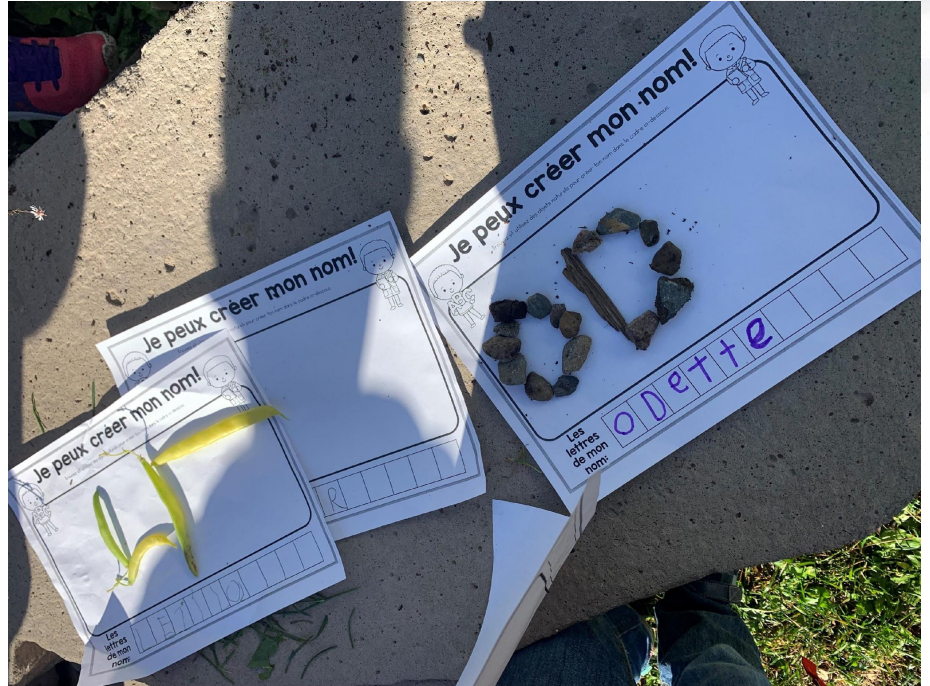
French Immersion P-12

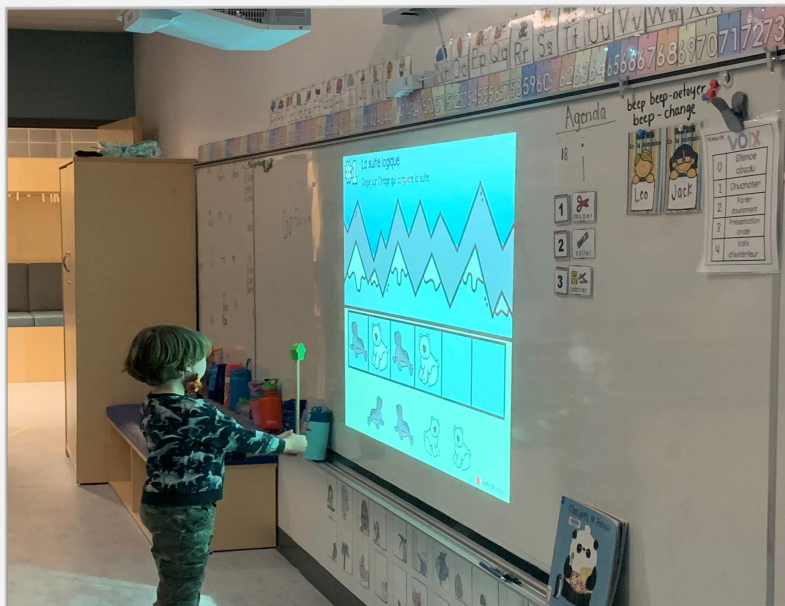
Graduates of the French Immersion Program:

- will be able to communicate effectively in oral and written French and English.
- will be able to achieve expected learning outcomes of courses taught in French and in English.
- could pursue university or college education in French.



Exploring the world around us and connecting to learning!







Growth over the course of the year

Mid Year to End of Year

- Speak in sentences of 10 words or more
- Have short conversations in French around known subjects (likes, sports, animals, etc.)
- Tell a short story
- Be able to tap into a larger bank of vocabulary words



Language Acquisition in the French Immersion Program

- Students acquire French language skills through:
- teacher modeling and instruction
 - authentic opportunities to communicate and interact (l'approche neurolinguistique)
 - linking oral language, reading, and writing



Students use bee-bot to learn their letters!



Benefits of Early French Immersion

- The student's knowledge of their first language is transferred to and interacts with the knowledge they are acquiring in the additional language.
- Language concepts and skills learned and developed in French support concepts and skills learned in their first language.
- Bilingualism can enhance some aspects of academic and cognitive growth (improved literacy, mental flexibility, creativity, divergent thinking, higher order thinking, expanded view of the world).

(Arnett & Bourgoin, 2017; Genesee, 2007)



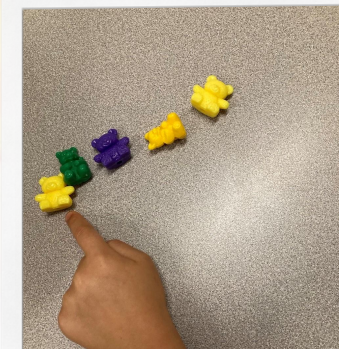
English Instruction

- Formal English Instruction begins in Grade 3.
- English reading abilities may not develop at the same rate as P-3 students in the English Program, however, research shows that over time, immersion students do as well, if not better, than their English counterparts. (Bournot-Trites et Tellowitz, 2002)
- If English is the home language, research shows that second-language learning does not negatively affect it. Students rapidly catch up once English is introduced and, that many students surpass their peers by Grades 5 or 6, and that skills in French can and do transfer to English. (Genesee, 2007)
- Instruction of subject material will not be repeated in English



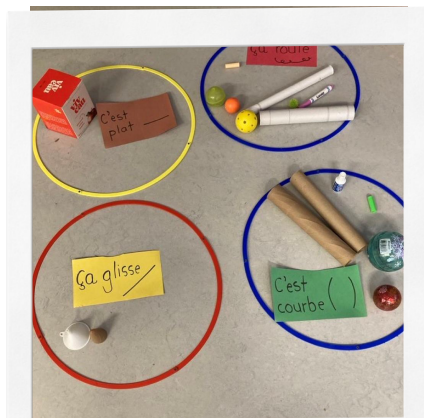
If English is not the home language

Learning a 2nd language, such as French, can have an influence on learning additional languages. (Arnett and Bourgoin, 2018)



*Nous utilisons
des petits objets
pour compter de
1 à 5*

*Nous avons classé
les objets à trois
dimensions selon
une règle de trie.*



Mathematics

- Students develop problem solving strategies
- Students develop visualization skills and make connections to their everyday experiences
- Students develop number sense
- Students use technologies and hands-on materials as tools for learning and solving problems



Learning Through Play

- As children enter school they need to continue to learn through the medium of play.
- An early elementary experience that is infused with play helps students learn in the way that is best suited to their stages of development.
- Children need time to explore, to create, to manipulate, and to design their own play. They also benefit from support, guidance, and gentle nudges to move beyond their comfort zone.
- In Immersion, interactions are supported by the classroom teacher modeling how to communicate in French.

The Role of Play

Through play children learn how to:

- ❑ Construct knowledge
- ❑ Express their feelings and ideas
- ❑ Appreciate the feelings of others
- ❑ Listen to the ideas of others
- ❑ Interact with others
- ❑ Solve problems
- ❑ Resolve conflicts





Supports for Students in Immersion

- Early Literacy Support in French
- French Reading Recovery (in some schools)
- Resource
- Teaching Support Team (TST) provides support and guidance to teachers
- Student Planning Team (SPT) explores supports and makes decisions about the student's program.
- Adaptations and Individual Program Plans (IPP)



When deciding which program your child will enter

Consider:

- How well developed are my child's home language skills?
- How might my child respond if understanding the teacher is challenging at the onset?



Please note:

- ▶ French Immersion Programs are specifically designed for children of parents or guardians who do not speak French
- ▶ Students will learn at different rates just as they would in an English speaking classroom
- ▶ Parents/guardians can encourage learning by providing a rich and supportive environment in their child's first language



February Registration

A child must have reached his/her 5th birthday **on or before December 31.**

At the time of registration, parents/guardians must complete registration online at hrce.ca :

- the child's birth certificate and /or passport
- proof of residency (such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment or a mortgage contract)



Useful Links

Halifax Regional Centre for Education:

<https://www.hrce.ca/students/general-information/french-programs/early-french-immersion>

Canadian Parents for French: www.cpf.ca

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development How Bilingual Am I: <https://sites.google.com/gnspes.ca/bilingualism/home>



Merci!





Works Cited

Arnett, K., & Bourgoin, R. (2017). *Access for Success: Making Inclusion Work for Language Learners*. Pearson Education Canada.

Bournot-Trites, M., & Tellowitz, U. (2002, January). *Report of Current Research on the Effects of Second Language Learning on First Language Literacy Skills*. Atlantic Provinces Educational Foundation.

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Genesee, F. (2007, August). French Immersion and At-Risk Students: A Review of Research Evidence. *The Canadian Modern Language Review / La revue canadienne des langues vivantes*, 63(5), 654-687. 10.1353/cml.2008.0004