

How you can help your child speak French ... even if you don't speak it yourself



- ★ listen to the radio, watch television, take in live performances, sing songs, listen to stories & go to plays all in French
- ★ play French computer games, access French web-sites, & download French phone/ipad applications
- ★ encourage your child to speak French at his/her next playdate - you can even serve croissants!
- ★ take time to explain meanings of unfamiliar words and world events - you can look up specific words on google translate
- ★ play French sound/word/spelling games e.g., rhyming words, opposites, synonyms, words that begin or end with the same sound, identify silent letters - check past French homework sheets and high-frequency word lists for ideas
- ★ have French books, magazines, and other print materials in your home
- ★ buy clothes, posters, and artwork featuring French words or phrases
- ★ visit the public library to borrow French books, magazines, videos, CD's, etc.
- ★ vary the types of French books that you read with your child e.g., science fiction, poetry, mystery, humour, non-fiction, legends, folktales, books that focus on Canada and the French culture in Québec
- ★ gather and use information from a variety of French sources e.g., use a picture, dictionary, newsletter, thesaurus, graph, map, poster, schedule, sign, label, recipe, menu, etc.
- ★ vary the ways you read with your child when completing the French home-reading program:
1) take turns - alternate sentences, paragraphs, or pages 2) read together in unison 3) whisper
4) use a silly voice 5) note the punctuation
- ★ talk about and use French book features e.g., table of contents, index, glossary, title page, etc.
- ★ keep a supply of special paper, pencils, markers, crayons, and stamps ready for your child to use when writing in French
- ★ have your child write notes to the teacher in French - you just have to sign them!
- ★ let your child create cards, reminders, to-do lists, instructions, grocery lists, & invitations in French
- ★ encourage diary writing in French
- ★ have your child keep a personal dictionary of interesting or important French words
- ★ use newspapers and magazines to find words, letters, and pictures in order to create French poems, stories, mystery letters, & different kinds of books such as alphabet books, colour books, rhyming books, and joke books
- ★ play French word games e.g., Scrabble, Clue, Spill and Spell, Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, crossword puzzles, & word searches
- ★ write French labels for things in the home e.g., clock, chair, table, names of toys, etc.
- ★ list or use a French word of the day; collect French logos, word stickers, cards, & labels from food packaging