What is French-second-language education (FSL)?
Children can enjoy learning French in the classroom through many program options. There are early, middle and late French immersion programs; extended French programs; intensive French programs; partial immersion programs (also known as bilingual or 50-50 programs); and core/basic French programs.

Why should I choose FSL education for my child?
The ability to understand and speak French is only one benefit of French-second-language education. Students who learn French—particularly those in immersion programs—reap additional cognitive, academic and employment benefits.
Which French-second-language education (FSL) programs give the best French-language results?

French immersion programs and those that use immersion teaching methods have generally produced better second-language results than core/basic programs. Proficiency levels in the early French immersion program will usually be higher than middle, late and partial immersion programs.

Parents can expect their early immersion child to approach native-like levels in French listening comprehension and reading by the end of elementary school, although they are still distinguishable from francophones in speaking and writing. High school immersion graduates should be able to work in or pursue post-secondary studies in French. In fact, many high school French immersion graduates attained an intermediate or higher level of language proficiency on Public Service Commission of Canada tests.
Do children in French immersion have to be above-average academically in order to succeed?

No special skills are required. Children with all types of academic ability can succeed in French immersion, not just above-average students. Studies show that students with lower academic abilities do as well in immersion as they do in English programs. Every student can have the same opportunity and the advantage is that they all have the potential to become bilingual.

Immersion students master French in the same way that they learned English. The process is so natural because French is used as the language of instruction and as a means of communication. Students learning in French immersion are being taught the same curriculum as if they were in an English program. French immersion programs start with all or most of the day in French. This helps students quickly learn and achieve the French skills needed to study other subjects in French.
Will my child be able to learn math and science in French?

YES – Once children have developed French vocabulary and fluency, especially in a French immersion program, and he/she is comfortable communicating in French, they can learn any subject in French.

Research: A 1991 review of research studies found that French immersion students met or exceeded English program students’ performance in mathematics. Province-wide assessments in British Columbia, New Brunswick and Ontario found that at Grades 6, 8, and 10, respectively, immersion students did as well in math and science or achieved at a significantly higher level than those in the regular English program.

All references on page 22.

www.cpf.ca
What is core French?
Core French, also known as basic French, is taught as one subject within a school’s curriculum. Ministries of education, school boards and individual schools all have a hand in shaping core French programs, so the grade at which core French is introduced varies, as does the amount of classroom time and the intensity of instruction. Instruction in French language skills and culture is usually introduced between Kindergarten and Grade 4, with students spending between 20 and 40 minutes per day learning French language arts.

The goals for a high school graduate of core French include language knowledge, basic communication skills and an appreciation of French culture in Canada and around the world. Language skills are taught through themes based on the child’s interests and experiences, and learning activities focus on listening and speaking, as well as on reading and writing.
What is French immersion?

In French immersion programs, French is not only a subject, but also the language of instruction and a means of communication. Much of the regular school curriculum is taught in French. Provinces and territories, as well as school boards and individual schools all have helped to shape immersion programs, so the percentage of French-language instruction may vary.

French immersion programs are designed to provide non-francophone children with a high degree of proficiency in the French language. The goal is to equip the graduate with the ability to communicate naturally in French using a wide range of vocabulary. A high school immersion graduate should be able to function well in a French-speaking community, accept a job where French is the working language, or pursue university or college education in French.
What is early French immersion?

Students in early immersion are almost completely immersed in French in the first few years of school. In most provinces, they are not introduced to English in the classroom until about Grade 2 or 3. Then, from Grades 4-8, French instruction is reduced to 60-80 per cent.

In high school this percentage drops again, with two to four subjects taught in French, in addition to a French course. By Grade 11-12 students are generally taking only one or two courses in French.

Early immersion is the most popular choice, with roughly 75 per cent of immersion students enrolled in early immersion programs.
Middle French immersion programs usually begin around Grade 4 or 5. Like early immersion programs, the students are immersed in the French language at the beginning of the program and then gradually the amount of French being taught is reduced.

There are relatively few middle immersion programs offered in Canada. Most school districts with immersion programs offer early and late options.
What is late immersion?
Late French immersion programs usually begin around Grades 6 or 7. Instruction is almost exclusively in French at the beginning and is gradually reduced.

www.cpf.ca
All references on page 22.
What is extended core French?
Extended French programs provide core French students with additional exposure to French, by using French as the language of instruction for one or two subjects in addition to a French course. This option becomes available to students between Grades 4 to 8 and may be continued throughout secondary school. Currently, extended French programs are offered only in a few provinces.
What is partial immersion?
Partial immersion programs, also known as 50-50 or bilingual programs split instructional time evenly between French and English instruction. Students are taught 50 per cent of their lessons in French, 50 per cent in English, for the duration of the program.

Students in partial immersion programs accumulate significantly more hours of instruction in French than core French students, but the program does not provide a period of intensity.

Research: Studies comparing French achievement in partial and total immersion programs generally show that students in early total immersion programs develop superior French language skills to those of students in early partial programs.

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All references on page 22.
Intensive French is a relatively new program, first piloted in Newfoundland and Labrador in 1998, and more recently introduced in six other provinces and the Northwest Territories.

This program is usually offered in Grades 4, 5 or 6 and enhances the core French program with an intensive period of French instruction using immersion teaching methods during one half of a school year. During this period, students spend approximately 70 per cent of the school day in French, learning skills that support the curriculum. The usual curriculum is “compacted” and students complete it in English in the second half of the school year.

Intensive French allows students to attain an impressive level of French-language ability in a short time but it is important that school districts offer appropriate follow up programs, like late immersion or extended core French so that students can maintain and enhance their new-found French fluency.
Activity 13
Les moyens de transport
Means of transportation

Coche [✔] les moyens de transport que tu aimes. J’aime...
Check [✔] the means of transportation you like. I like...

- l’automobile
- l’hélicoptère
- les pieds
- le train
- la bicyclette
- la montgolfière
- l’avion
- le bateau
- le camion

I don’t speak French; can I still help my child?

YES – Immersion teachers know that most parents do not understand or speak French. The world-renowned program was designed specifically for children of anglophone parents. There are many things you can do to help:

• Be supportive and enthusiastic. Research shows that students whose parents have positive attitudes toward French do better in immersion programs.
• Provide lots of opportunities for your child to learn English. Skills learned in one language are transferred to the other so read to your child in English, encourage your child to write in English, and encourage English-language word games like crossword puzzles, word searches, and Scrabble.
• Make French a part of your child’s life by providing opportunities for your child to use French outside of the classroom: borrow or buy French books and videos, watch French TV with your child, expose your child to French-language events and activities.
How bilingual will my child become?

How bilingual your child will become depends on the type of French-second-language program he/she is enrolled in. There's also the issue of intensity, in other words, the proportion of a student's time spent learning in French. Intensity at the beginning of a program is more important to French-language development than the total accumulated hours of instruction over a student's career.

Research: The Threshold Level Theory—Intensive exposure to French is important because it allows students quickly to reach the level of French-language ability required to study other subjects in the new language.
Other than learning French, what more does my child gain from taking French immersion (i.e. what are the cognitive benefits)?

**Mental Flexibility**
Students with two languages can focus more on meaning and pick out the most relevant points from information provided. They are better able to communicate their thoughts and express themselves and can answer open-ended questions more easily than those with only one language.

**Increased sensitivity to others; heightened awareness, receptivity and appreciation of language**
Acquisition of a second language makes them more sensitive to communication and better able to understand and respond to the needs of others. Their exposure to another culture makes them respectful of differences, and allows them to communicate effectively with people of diverse backgrounds.

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**Activity 15**
À la campagne
*At the farm*

Un fort vent a emporté toutes les voyelles des noms des animaux.
Insère les voyelles dans les noms sous le dessin.

* A strong wind blew away all the vowels from the names of the animals.
* Complete the name with the correct vowels.
* See Activity 14 for spelling.

![Activity 15 Image]

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www.cpf.ca  
All references on page 22.
Activity 16

Au zoo
At the Zoo

Allons au zoo… Visite chaque animal seulement une fois.
Tu peux entrer et sortir de n’importe quelle entrée ou sortie.
Let’s go to the Zoo! … Visit these zoo animals only once.
You may enter and exit at any point.

Do French immersion students study the same curriculum as children in the English program?
YES – French immersion programs follow the curriculum guidelines set down by provincial/territorial departments of education. Only the language of instruction is different.

All references on page 22.
Coche [✔] la bonne réponse (les bonnes réponses).
Check [✔] the correct answer (the correct answers).

1. Marc s’est caché dans le carré le cercle le triangle.
2. Marie s’est cachée dans le carré le cercle le triangle.
3. François s’est caché dans le carré le cercle le triangle.
4. Hélène s’est cachée dans le carré le cercle le triangle.

How can Canadian Parents for French (CPF) help parents with children in French-second-language (FSL) programs?

CPF provides information and resources for parents and students, as well as activities for children and youth to support their FSL education. For more information go to www.cpf.ca.
What are the employment benefits of official-language education?

Bilinguals have access to a wider range of national and international jobs. Thousands of Canadian businesses operate in both official languages. Airlines, import-export companies and other international businesses require employees with second-language skills.

About 40 per cent of all positions in the Public Service of Canada – about 67,000 jobs – are bilingual. In addition, the Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP) recruits students for federal departments and agencies to fill approximately 7,000 temporary student jobs each year.

All references on page 22.  

www.cpf.ca
Will my child’s English language skills suffer?

NO – Young children adapt to learning French in French-second-language (FSL) programs because it is done in a child-friendly and language-friendly way. Learning more than one language has proven to be very positive. In fact, studies show that language skills developed while learning French are used to learn and use English and vice versa.

In French immersion programs, English is introduced by Grade 3 in most provinces so children have a chance to put their learning skills to use while at the same time parents and the community continue to reinforce the development of their English-language skills.

Research: A 1991 review of research showed that although French immersion students sometimes lag behind at Grade 3, they match and often surpass English program students’ performance in English-language skills by Grade 4 or 5.

www.cpf.ca

All references on page 22.


