

# Building Linguistic Security - Be Brave, Speak French!

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## What we all can do:

**Even the smallest comment or reaction can make one feel judged.**

- **As one fluent in French or simply further on your path to bilingualism:** *How can you be more aware of language insecurity in others and support them?*
- **As a learner on the path:** *What can you do to overcome the fear-factor and develop your risk-taking strategies for using French?*



## For French Learners:

**Be brave, speak French as often as you can.**

- Feel free to start a conversation with *“Aujourd’hui j’ai le courage de parler en français”* (eventually you won’t feel a need to).
- Wear a CPF button that says: *“Je parle français”, “J’apprends le français”* or *“J’appuie le français”*.



## For Parents:

**Praise your child’s efforts in French and celebrate their progress. Value what linguistic variety brings to our society.**

- Explain to your child and other parents that there are many varieties of French. These are desirable in sharing the richness of the language.
- Recognize that your child’s teacher may have a different accent than other teachers and that is perfectly okay. They will use different expressions which reflect where they learned the language.
- Be careful when commenting about how another person speaks French.



## For Teachers:

**Foster a risk-taking attitude throughout your career.**

- Encourage colleagues to speak French with you in and outside the school. Find a mentor that will correct your French in a positive and encouraging manner.
- Support your colleagues’ efforts so they can develop their French skills. Be a gracious role model.
- Participate in summer immersion experiences, language “boot camps” or school exchanges, including virtual ones as great ways to build your confidence in a safe, non-threatening setting. Use the language portfolio as a motivational tool.

## AT HOME:

**Make French part of your daily home life for all members of the family. The more you hear French, the easier it will be to join in.**



Watch television and movies in French (with or without subtitles). Listen to French radio and check out the latest in French music. Follow the news in two languages.



Turn your text messaging system on your phone to French. Seek out French audio books and apps for your child.



Make connections with French-speaking neighbours. Together, seek out activities organized by the Francophone community in your area.

## IN THE COMMUNITY:

**Take the risk, speak French as you attend opportunities and cultural events.**



Take in a French festival. Join a French choir. Play recreational hockey in French. Take a French cooking class and enjoy the French conversation, culture and food!



Sign your child up for French activities at the library, spring break or summer camps.



Seek out meeting spaces that bring French language learners and French speakers together.



Ask your regional Francophone centre to put up a sign that says: "Ici, nous accueillons les apprenants du français".

**How does linguistic insecurity affect the use of French around you?  
Around your family members?**

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**How can you contribute to increasing linguistic security –  
for yourself, your child, and your child's teacher?**

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