



# Yes, You Can Help!: A Guide For French Immersion Parents



*The Immersion File*  
Canadian Parents for French - Information for Parents



**French Immersion ~ Questions & Answers**

~ Questions Commonly Asked by Parents Considering French Immersion.

Immersion is the most effective method known for teaching a second language. The aim of Early French Immersion is functional bilingualism. Graduates are able to communicate comfortably in the second language; meanwhile, their English skills will be excellent. The skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are common to all languages and once learned, are transferable between languages. A key to success is a positive attitude in the home toward the language and the program.

The following questions are commonly asked by parents who are considering enrolling their child in French Immersion. We hope the answers will give you a better understanding of this unique Canadian program; a program being increasingly used as a model by other countries around the world.

**Q. Will Total Immersion retard my child's development of English-language skills?**  
A. There is a temporary lag relative to regular English program groups. In Early Immersion the student's weaker performance in English lasts until about the end of grade three. However, the trend in later grades is for Immersion students to perform in English as well as, or better than, their English-educated counter-parts. Learning a second language is believed to enhance a student's performance in his/her mother tongue.

**Q. Does it matter if no one at home speaks French?**  
A. No, - the program was designed for children of non-French speaking families. Teachers are aware of this when they send home notices or assign homework. Reporting is in English.

**Q. Will my child learn the same things as students in English classes?**  
A. Yes, - the curriculum must follow the guidelines of the provincial Ministry of Education. Materials in French cover the same basic academic goals regardless of the language of instruction.

**Q. Shouldn't some sort of screening take place?**  
A. The only children found to be very poor candidates for Immersion are those with a poor sense of auditory discrimination or auditory memory. In almost all cases, this is apparent to the kindergarten teacher and a decision can be made before grade one. Children who may have difficulty learning to read in English may have difficulty learning to read in French. It is generally the actual reading skills that these children have trouble with, not the language. If learning assistance is available in French, these children should be able to remain in Immersion.

**Q. Who teaches the program?**  
A. A bilingual teacher whose first language is French or who has acquired fluency in the French language. There are university programs which train Immersion teachers.

**Q. What if my child wants to go to the bathroom or is injured and cannot communicate in French?**  
A. Normally all teachers also speak English and if necessary could do so in an emergency.

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*Learning English and French Opens Doors To Tomorrow*

Parents of French Immersion Students You can help your child in French immersion! .. Yes, You Can Help! is designed as a reference and guide. We hope it. You can find much more on literacy development and helping your child in Alberta Education's handbook for parents, Yes, You Can Help! to ask whether it is offering CPF Alberta's French for Immersion Parents program. ABSTRACT. The guide is designed to encourage parents of children in elementary school French immersion programs to take an active role in the programs. ISBN 978-0-7733-0000-3 (PDF). 978-0-7733-0000-0 (HTML). Yes You Can Help!: Information and Inspiration for Parents of French Immersion. Description, [S.l.]: Distributed by ERIC Clearinghouse, p. ISBN, Summary. The guide for parents of French immersion. Description, [S.l.]: Distributed by ERIC Clearinghouse, p. ISBN, Summary. The guide is designed to encourage parents. Parents who have chosen a French immersion education for their children, at times, feel unable to help . parents can access it and can easily help their children and feel that they can contribute to their children's Yes, the French immersion program does continue on after Ecole Mountainview! Yes You Can Help!. French. Immersion. On y va! Let's Go. Parent Handbook. Remember that being able to speak a second language can take you so many places, whether it. From the home page, go to Programs and then select French Immersion. This handbook is a compilation of re- sources . Adapted from Yes, You Can Help. Parents assume they should be involved in homework (Cooper, ) Struggle to help with homework because of lack of French. ? Need more help . a 'how-to' guide for parents resource for parents: Yes you can help!.

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