

Twelve Reasons Why You Should Choose French Immersion For Your Children.

1. It opens one more door for them and their future well-being and gives them a lifelong ability to communicate with French-speaking people, here in Canada and around the globe.
2. It increases their appreciation of other languages and cultures as well as their own.
3. It increases job opportunities in many careers where knowing another language is a real asset.
4. It helps them learn other languages.
5. It gives them a more global view of Canada and the world.
6. It enriches travel experiences, especially to the 53 countries where French is spoken.
7. It enhances their creativity and problem solving ability.
8. It has a positive impact on their intellectual growth and cognitive (the mental process by which knowledge is acquired) development.
9. It helps them become more flexible thinkers, with superior listening skills.
10. Learning a second language has a positive effect on learning your first language skills. In other words, learning French improves your English language skills. By the end of the elementary school years students in immersion often outperform those in the regular program on tests in literacy.
11. French Immersion students meet or exceed English program students' performance in mathematics.
12. Students in French Immersion have higher self-esteem, better social skills and tend to be more tolerant toward minorities.

Two Common Questions About French Immersion

1. How about the English aspect of my children's education?

The children receive instruction in French only from Kindergarten to grade 3. From grade 4 to 7 students will receive approximately five hours of English instruction per week. In high school, from grade 8 to 10, students will have French, math, science and social studies in French and everything else in English (PE, CAPP, and all their electives). In grade 11, students have French and social studies in French and finally in grade 12 they have all classes delivered in English except French.

Since students in French Immersion do not get English instruction before grade 4, they sometimes lag behind at that level but by the time they reach the end of their elementary schooling, they match and often surpass English program students' performance in English language skills. In fact, given that roughly half of all English words have a French or Latin root, knowledge of French can aid in building English vocabulary and spelling. Skills in one language can be transferred to benefit the development of the other.

2. Can I put my children in French Immersion if I don't speak French?

The French Immersion program was developed for the specific purpose of giving Anglophone school children the opportunity to become bilingual, while still maintaining their English skills. The Immersion method was created for children whose classroom language is not their first language. The French Immersion program is structured for children who do not have a French background or parents who speak French. So to answer the question: Yes, you can put your children in French Immersion if you don't speak French.

Your encouragement and belief in the value of a second language will strengthen your children's learning experience.

