

## IS FRENCH IMMERSION THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR MY CHILD?

### **THE SUCCESSFUL STUDENT IN FRENCH IMMERSION**

- Is verbal, likes to talk
- Shows strengths in first language
- Has good auditory discrimination
- Has good memory
- Is usually attentive and focused
- Readily accepts challenges
- Self-corrects
- Imitates easily
- Trusts
- Experiments without fear of making mistakes

### COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED BY PARENTS

#### 1. **How does the French Immersion Program compare to the English Program?**

The French Immersion Program parallels the English Program curriculum. In addition, students become proficient in French and have the opportunity to learn about another culture.

#### 2. **Do parents need to be able to speak French at home?**

French Immersion is designed specifically for families whose first language is not French, although some children do have a francophone parent! Reading to your child in English *is* beneficial. French television programming and French music and story tapes are available. Remember, the teachers are bilingual – you can ask them for help.

#### 3. **How much French will the students be able to speak at the end of Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2 . . . ?**

At the end of Kindergarten, children are able to recognize a large vocabulary, and are attempting to use single words and a few short sentences. They are able to follow teacher's instructions and to understand simple stories. They understand more than they speak. In Grades 1 – 3, speaking skills continue

to receive emphasis and children become better at expressing themselves in French.

#### 4. **Will the students 'be late' with their English skills?**

Studies have shown that by Grade 7 most immersion students are equal or superior to their English peers in English Language Arts. Our entire cultural milieu is English. English reading and spelling skills may lag briefly in the early intermediate grades. Parents can help by reading in English to their children.

#### 5. **How do English-speaking 5 year-old children react to being immersed in a language that they do not understand?**

All children at this age are interested in learning and enthusiastic about school. Some children may experience some initial frustration. These children overcome this given the nurturing, caring and interactive nature of the environment, and the consistent support of their parents.

#### 6. **How are learning disabilities dealt with in French Immersion?**

Learning assistance is provided in French, as it would be in English. Learning disabilities are not related to French language. Should a learning disability be detected, the same strategies and procedures as in English are employed in French.

#### 7. **How late can a child enter the French Immersion Program?**

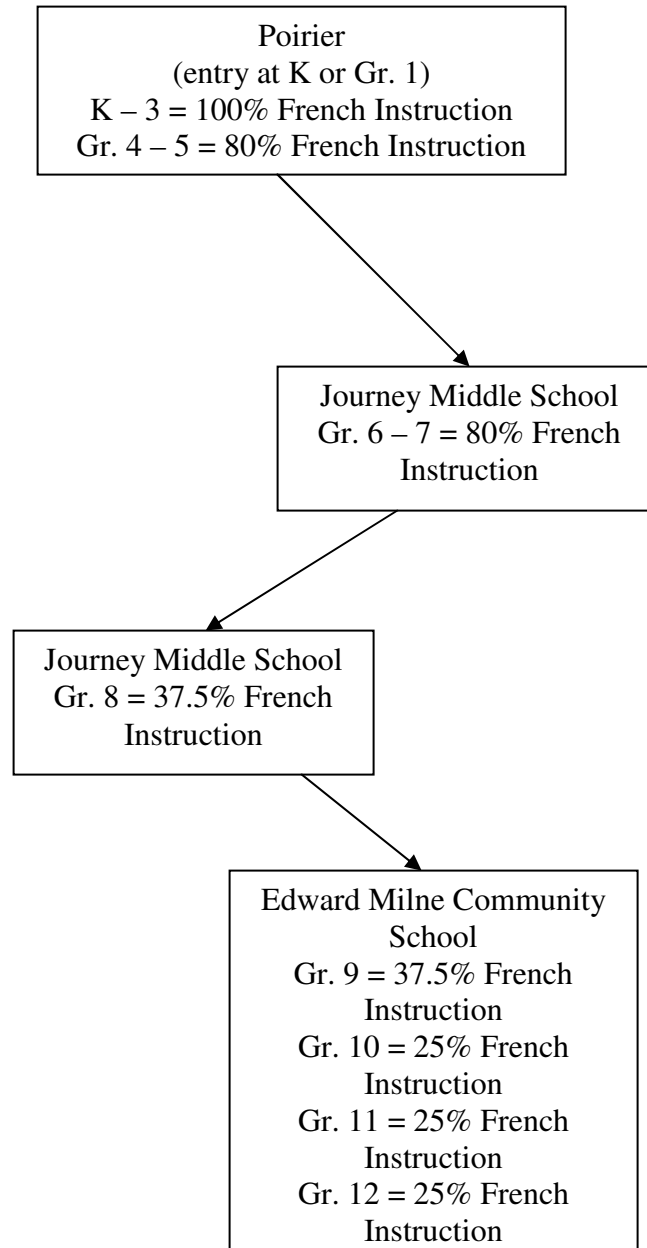
The child can register no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> of the year the child enters Grade 1.

## A GUIDE TO BEING AN IMMERSION PARENT DO'S AND DON'TS

- Do encourage your child to watch French television.
- Do read stories to your child in English. Because English stories will not be heard at school for a time, you can fill the gap.
- Do take your child to French cultural events; take advantage of opportunities for exposure to the French language and culture.
- Do volunteer to help at the school, in the classroom or with concerts, fairs, special days, and field trips.
- Do show that you are pleased with your child's progress.
- Do speak positively about the program, the teacher, and the school. Express any questions or concerns you might have to the teacher, not to your child.

- Do not ask your child to translate. Children will not understand this concept in the very early grades.
- Do not attempt to correct your child if you are uncertain of the exact pronunciation or expression.
- Do not give in to temptation to say, "Now, dear, say something in French to Grandma." If your child is eager to speak French at home, encourage it, but do not make it a chore.
- Do not compare your child's progress with that of neighbours' children. No two teachers and no two students work at the same rate.
- Do not expect your child to provide you with an account of each day's activities. Children take the routines of school for granted, and often want a change of subject when they reach home.
- Do not tell your five-year-old, "You are going to immersion in September." After a big build-up, some children are surprised to arrive at an ordinary school!

## CURRENT PATHWAYS FOR FRENCH IMMERSION STUDENTS



*For More information please contact:*

Sooke School District #62  
3143 Jacklin Road  
Victoria, BC  
Telephone: 250-474-9800  
Facsimile: 250-474-9825  
Website: [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

Local Groups that can provide you with current information on French programs in the Sooke district:

**Sooke District  
French Immersion  
Parents' Association**  
250-642-7795

or

**Canadian Parents for French**  
Local: 250-478-2714  
BC: 1-800-665-1222  
Website: [www.cpf.ca](http://www.cpf.ca)

If you have any other questions please contact the School Office at l'ecole Poirier!

## ECOLE POIRIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A dual track (English and French Immersion)  
Grades K to 5 school.

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**Your Child**

and

**French Immersion**



**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**