

Some Typical Concerns of Parents

Q. Will total immersion inhibit my child's development of English language skills?

A. There is some lag when French Immersion students are tested against English stream peers in their first year of exposure to English language arts. Research shows, however, that this lag is made up within two or three years, and that by Grade 7 most immersion students are equal to or superior to their English peers in English language Arts.

Q. What about achievement in mathematics and other subjects?

A. A decade of testing indicates that an immersion student's performance in other subjects is equal to the performance of students not in immersion.

Q. How can I help my child with homework, when I can't speak French?

A. Help with concepts can be given regardless of language, and is always beneficial. It is helpful, but not necessary, for parents to speak French. Continue with your normal daily literacy and numeracy routines in English. Support your child's learning by providing a quiet place and regular time for doing homework.

More Questions?

For more information:

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Your Child  
and  
Early French  
Immersion



  
**SOOKE 62**  
SCHOOLS  
Shaping Tomorrow Today

community groups to help parents support their children.

*Are there extra costs?*

No. French Immersion is a regular School District Program.



*Frequently asked questions...*

**What is French Immersion?**

In immersion programs, French is not only a subject, but a language of instruction and a means of communication.

**What benefits will French Immersion provide my child?**

- A lifelong ability to communicate with French speaking people, here in Canada and around the globe.
- A facility for learning other languages.
- A greater range of career options.
- Enhanced creativity and problem-solving ability.

**Is French an appropriate choice for my child?**

The following questions might guide you in your decision.

- Has your child's first language developed adequately for a child of his/her age?
- Does your child accept change easily?
- Do you understand that your child will study exclusively in French up to the end of Grade 3?

**What if the parents don't speak French?**

Don't worry. There is no expectation that parents will be able to understand or speak French. Encouragement is the key. Be supportive and enthusiastic. There are resources available through the school, the public libraries, and

## IN OUR SOOKE SCHOOL DISTRICT...

- The French Immersion program parallels the English program curriculum.
- In Kindergarten, the teacher speaks to the class in French, although the children often continue to use English, especially among themselves. By the end of the year 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.



- In Grades 1, 2 & 3 all instruction, including reading, writing and mathematics, is given in French. Speaking skills continue to receive emphasis and the children get better at expressing themselves in French.
- In Grade 4, children begin taking some classes in English.
- Our aim is that graduates will be able to communicate comfortably in the second language while maintaining the same fluency as their peers in standard English programs.

Who is **ELIGIBLE?**

Any child in Sooke School District born in 2006 may register for Kindergarten Immersion.

Children who missed Kindergarten Immersion last year may register in the Grade 1 Program.

**Where can I REGISTER?**

*Immersion programs are offered at:*

ECOLE POIRIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, K-5  
6526 Throup Road