

Top Language Activities that can also develop Literacy Skills

1. **Active language games** to introduce & consolidate vocabulary – many of the games that are used to develop Phonics / Literacy skills in L1 as highlighted on the Highland Literacy Blog in L1 can also be done in another language to develop vocabulary knowledge. Here is a link to some of the [best language games](#) with instructions in French.
2. **VAK approach** (Visual, audio, kinesthetic) -associate vocabulary with pictures, links to similar sounds/words in English and mimes.
3. **Talking** - give lots of different opportunities for talking - in pairs, small groups, whole class Q & A, surveys, singing, class act out a story, role-play activities, playing board games, presentations in groups / as individuals, voice or video record learners, use Apps to create monologues & dialogues.
4. **Develop knowledge of phonics** - explicitly teach the sounds in French. Practise pronunciation with games such as read along / what's the next word etc.
5. **Listening** - read to the class, listen to & join in with songs, listen to stories online, watch cartoons & play games to identify key words/phrases & check comprehension.
6. **Reading** - French display wall with key words, teacher read to class, learners read aloud in pairs/small groups/to class, play games with mini flashcards - find your partner, pairs, dominoes, loop game, sorting vocabulary into categories.
7. **Listening/reading comprehension** - sandwich of activities with warm up, comprehension activity & follow up. Learners show their understanding using mind/story maps with images & key words/phrases. Learners create comprehension quiz for others eg. T / F, multiple choice, gap fill.
8. **Develop thinking & discussing skills** - be language detectives and use Think-Pair-Share. Focus on similarities & differences between languages (vocabulary, language structures etc). Create a question wall. Use mindmaps.
9. **Writing** - make posters for a French display of common words eg. numbers, labelling pictures with key words (ie. body), collages with images & words/phrases, make a word mat/vocabulary booklet with words & images by copying words from the board, learners make up snap game, games such as sky writing, line bingo or hangman. Post-its as building blocks for sentences. Develop creative writing skills - poems, silly phrases, Consequences game, comic strips.
10. **Give activities a real purpose & an audience** - who is the audience? Make it real ie. make mini-books to teach vocabulary to younger learners.
11. **Use of AiFL techniques for feedback** - eg. 2 stars & wish & teach vocabulary - adjectives & opinions J'aime ça. C'est intéressant. Or peer & self assessment - traffic light & use vocabulary for different colours. Exit post-its - write new word learnt. Warm up for next lesson - put the word into a phrase / sentence.
12. **Develop independence** - use of reference/support materials eg. key words on display, scaffold learning, provide word banks, (online) dictionaries. Provide checklist & success criteria for learners to check their work & develop accuracy. .
13. **Develop cultural knowledge** eg. combining playground games & literacy (Fruit Salad with sentences), traditional French stories/songs, research France (in English)