

# Tips & Tricks for Supporting Your Child in French



## Why French Matters

Core French, Extended French and French Immersion help students become strong bilingual communicators with lifelong language skills and you can support that at home, even if you *don't speak French yourself!* Check out this [parent guide](#) to get started.

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### 1. Talk With Your Child Often!

#### Conversation builds language:

- Chat about your day, interests, or plans in *any* language.
- If your child speaks French at school, ask them to tell you about it.
- Listening and speaking skills help with reading and writing too.

*Tip:* Even simple conversations help strengthen verbal skills.

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### 2. Read Together in English and French

#### Reading builds vocabulary:

- Enjoy books at home in *English* and in *French*.
- If you don't know the French words, let your child explain them to reinforce their understanding.
- Find books at the [Ottawa Public Library](#) and French local bookstores (e.g., [La librairie du soleil](#), [Le coin du livre](#))
- Listen to audiobooks in French from the [Ottawa Public Library](#) or [Sora](#) in the Student Portal.

*Tip:* Try alternating reading pages in both languages!

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### 3. Make Learning Part of Daily Life

#### Turn everyday moments into learning:

- Grocery lists, signs, recipes. Look for French words together.
- Play language games (memory, cards, labels around the house).
- Watch French media with your child (e.g., [TFO](#) - MiniTFO or FlipTFO)
- Listen to French music (e.g., Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube, French radio stations);

*Tip:* Learning doesn't have to be "school-like" - it can be fun!

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### 4. Support Thinking & Study Skills

#### Help your child become a *learner*:

- Teach them to organize their work, break large tasks into steps, and check their own work.
- Encourage planning and goal-setting for projects and homework.
- Encourage limited use of translation tools - relying on them for entire texts can slow the development of your child's internal French vocabulary and slow their progress.

*Tip:* Use planners, calendars, or checklists together.

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## 5. Use Online & Community Resources

### Extend learning outside the classroom:

- Find French videos, songs, and kid-friendly websites.
- Look for French community events or library programs. ([Alliance Francaise extracurricular programs](#))
- Consider joining [Canadian Parents for French](#) for free and enrolling your child in one of their programs.

*Tip:* Even French cartoons or YouTube kids' channels reinforce listening skills!

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## 6. Stay Connected With the School

### Communication is key:

- Ask your child's teacher how they're progressing.
- Attend school events and ask about resources or strategies to help at home.

*Tip:* School newsletters and calendars are great for staying in the loop.

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## 7. Don't Stress If You Don't Speak French

You don't need to be fluent! Support comes from:

- ✓ Encouraging effort
- ✓ Showing interest in what they're learning
- ✓ Creating opportunities to use language in real life

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## 8. Supporting your child when doing homework.

### Homework is about learning skills - not just answers!

You don't need to know French to help your child succeed with homework.

How parents can help:

- Create a routine: Set a regular time and quiet space for homework.
- Ask guiding questions:
  - "What is your assignment asking you to do?"
  - "How will you start?"
  - "Can you explain this to me?"
- Encourage effort, not perfection: Mistakes are part of learning a new language.

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## Quick Reminders

Celebrate small wins - learning a language takes time.

Make it fun - curiosity encourages confidence!

Language skills grow both at school *and* at home.