



FRENCH...

helping your child succeed.

PIAC Conference

TDSB French as a Second Language
Advisory Committee (FSLAC)

www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac

FSL Programs in the TDSB

- The TDSB offers 3 types of French programs
 - Core French
 - French Immersion
 - Extended French
- All 3 types of programs are second language programs and it is understood that the majority of students who are participating in any of these programs are not French speaking at home
- There is no obligation for parents to know or understand French for their children to be able to participate in the programs – especially French Immersion and Extended French

Immersion and Extended French

- French Immersion and Extended French programs are designed to develop both students' language skills, knowledge of content skills and critical thinking and literacy skills
- Teachers of French Immersion and Extended French classes must be able to plan programs that consider the balance between teaching French as a subject and developing students' French language and literacy skills as a vehicle for the demonstration of particular subject knowledge and skills
- Teachers plan programs that include modeling and demonstration with the students so that students gradually become independent learners
- Time for student work like research is provided in class so the school library can be used and the teacher can be a reference for the students

Types of Homework

- There are four types of commonly assigned homework, each having a different intended outcome as shown below.
 - Completion
 - Practice
 - Preparation
 - Extension

Homework Policy

- “Homework assignments shall be clearly articulated and carefully planned...where appropriate, homework assignments shall be differentiated to reflect the unique needs of the child.”
- “are designed to require no additional teaching outside the classroom and are engaging and relevant to student learning. Students understand what is expected of them before leaving school.”

Homework: Quantity JK-Gr.3

- **JK/SK** – “Homework should not be assigned to Kindergarten students...families are encouraged to engage in early learning activities such as playing, talking and reading together in English or in the family’s first language.”
- **Grades 1-3** – “There is a strong connection between reading to or with ...children every day in English or in one’s first language and student achievement. As a result, homework assigned... shall more often take the form of reading, playing a variety of games, having discussions and interactive activities such as building and cooking with the family.”

Homework: Quantity Gr. 4-6

- In the late Primary and Junior grades, effective homework may begin to take the form of independent work. In both cases, homework assigned for completion, practice, preparation or extension should be clearly articulated and differentiated to reflect the unique needs of the child.
- **You and your child's teacher know your child best. If you want your child to get additional homework, ask your child's teacher for advice.

Roles & Responsibilities

Teachers

- encouraging a partnership with family and students that promotes... **communication** and supports families in the homework process;
- assigning homework... appropriate to the student's age, developmental level, learning style, skills and **individual needs**
- teaching the skills necessary... to complete the homework and become successful **independent learners**

Students

- ensuring that he/she clearly **understands the homework** assigned, i.e. assignments, criteria, and timelines, and asks for clarification or assistance from the teacher when not clear regularly
- **Completing homework** in a timely manner to the best of his/her ability
- **managing time and materials**, e.g. by bringing home necessary materials.

Family Responsibilities

- **reading** in English, French (French Immersion) and/or the family's first language throughout the elementary years of their children's education
- providing an **environment**, i.e. workplace, block of uninterrupted time, usually in the home or in an alternative setting...for homework to be done
- providing encouragement and appropriate **support** without doing the homework for their child

Family Responsibilities (con't..)

- providing a healthy **balance** between homework, co-curricular activities and family commitments
- stopping their child from continuing to complete homework at **bedtime**, even if the child is not done
- contacting the classroom teacher if their child is not consistently able to do the homework by him/herself or if **challenges** or questions arise.

Homework tips

- Teachers know most parents don't speak French and assign homework that can be done independently
- Homework is often unfinished class work, or just a review of the classroom work
- Ask your child about the classroom routine
- Check your child's agenda and backpack. Discuss what you find and what you see posted in and around the classroom with your child.
- Discuss homework expectations and what's ahead with the teacher
- Stay ahead of the game - know what is being covered in class and help prepare your child by working with the themes and skills at home in your first language

Homework tips

Find tips and help at:

- www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac
- <http://on.cpf.ca>
- www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca
- <http://education.alberta.ca/media/3091402/yesyoucanhelp.pdf>

“ I REALLY don’t understand the homework.” What do I do?

- Start with a good homework routine in a calm environment – No DISTRACTIONS!
- Ask the child to “think back”. What did he/she do in class? What did the teacher say?
- Get the child to call a friend/classmate
- Ensure a good effort is made
- Use a dictionary (avoid website translations of longer phrases and texts) and online TDSB resources
- Use the agenda to tell the teacher how the homework went
- Encourage your child to talk with the teacher the next day

Expectations: Dos and DON'Ts

- Do look for progress over time - how is your child is doing today compared to last week or last month?
- Do encourage your child to explain to you in English what she is learning or reading, or watching on French TV
- Don't expect your child to do perfect word for word translations, even in high-school- translations are not part of the expectations of the programs
- Don't compare your child to other children in other classes. Though the curriculum is the same, concepts may be taught in a different order
- Don't worry – NOT knowing French can give you an edge in getting your child to think for himself!

READING

- ❖ Skills transfer -Read with your child in your native language - you don't need to read in French – (That's the students' /teachers' job)
- ❖ Develop a love of reading : Have books available at home, and visit the library together or download reading apps and e-books
- ❖ Model reading at home – Let your child see you enjoy reading
- ❖ Reading is more about reading for meaning and making connections to experiences and not just about the sounds of letters, or pronunciation of words
- ❖ Most importantly: praise your child to create a pleasant feeling

What if my child's book is in French?

- Have the child read the book in French out loud to you
- Start with the cover of the book
- Ask your child why he/she chose the book
- Try to figure out meaning from pictures
- Ask a lot of predicting questions and clarifying questions
 - “What do you think will happen next?”
 - ‘What do you think that means?’”

If the book is French, con't...

- Have your child explain the story in your native language
- Have your child go through the sequencing of the book – “Then what happened?”
- Have your child teach you some French words
- Use word families and context to guess meanings for unknown words instead of referring to a French dictionary
- Play word games (count the words, find a word that...)

WRITING & SPELLING

- Keep a French journal (picture + text)
- Write a short storybook for fun
- Copy sentences from a published book and draw your own pictures
- Do crosswords, word search or other vocabulary & spelling games
- Play hangman using old vocabulary lists provided by teachers

SPEAKING & LISTENING

- Watch TV in French or check out TFO.org for French Programs for a variety of different age groups
- listen to French radio at home or in the car: 860 AM, 90.3 FM, 105.1 FM
- Netflix & DVDs- select the French language track option. Or, watch a French movie with the French subtitles on to catch all the vocabulary.
- Find apps & Youtube videos in French
- Look into French camps (frenchstreet.ca)
- Get a tutor/babysitter to play in French
- Invite a classmate over and role-play in French, ie. French restaurant, "Boutique Chez Nous"

Other ways to support & encourage French at home and in the community

- Talk and read to your child in your first language
- Visit French section of your library, check out Chapters, Scholar's Choice, Sonshu
- Learn some French yourself- let your child teach you, take a French course Join CPF –Use French games and resources online
- Discuss class 'themes' in your own language –know the curriculum and stay ahead
- Look at labels on packages – which French words do you know?
- FRENCH BONUS TIME 😊 Give an extra 15-20 minutes of computer games, TV or reading time before bed IF IT'S DONE IN FRENCH!

School Library Website

www.tdsb.on.ca/libraries

- “TDSB Virtual Library” bookmark has any necessary Logins and Passwords.
- **E-BOOKS** > Bookflix
- **ELEMENTARY SUBJECTS**
 - Language > Storyvalues
 - Mathematics > Coolmath4kids
 - Mathematics > Math Homework Help
- **ONLINE DATABASES** > OERB (Ontario Educational Resource Bank)
 - Use “Browse by Curriculum”, select “grade” and “subject”.
 - Kids love “Interactive Learning” under “Resource Filter Types” on the left side panel.
- **IMAGES & MEDIA** > Learn360

The French as a Second Official Language Community

FSLAC-French Second Language Advisory Committee – www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac

- The parent voice at the TDSB for growth and excellence in French programs at the TDSB

Canadian Parents for French – <http://on.cpf.ca>

- The national network of volunteers who support and promote opportunities for young people to become bilingual in Canada's two official languages at the local, provincial and national level

French for the Future- <http://www.french-future.org>

- Supports and motivates students to stay in French

THANK YOU!

We hope that you found this information to be useful.
Remember, learning any language is a life long journey.

Travaillons ensemble pour nos élèves

We are all working together for our students!