

All Hands on Deck!

Literacy Learning in the French Immersion Classroom

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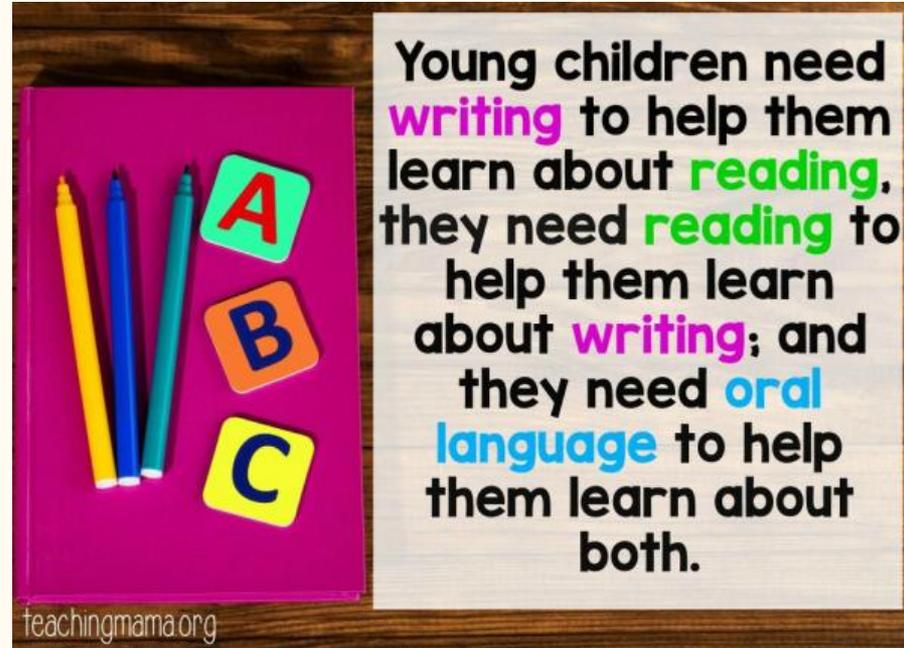
Outline

- Theory
 - The Universal Framework
 - Literacy Development
 - Second Language Acquisition
- Application
 - Creating a rich home literacy environment
 - Supporting the 5 components of literacy
 - Encouraging and motivating your child to learn French
- Questions

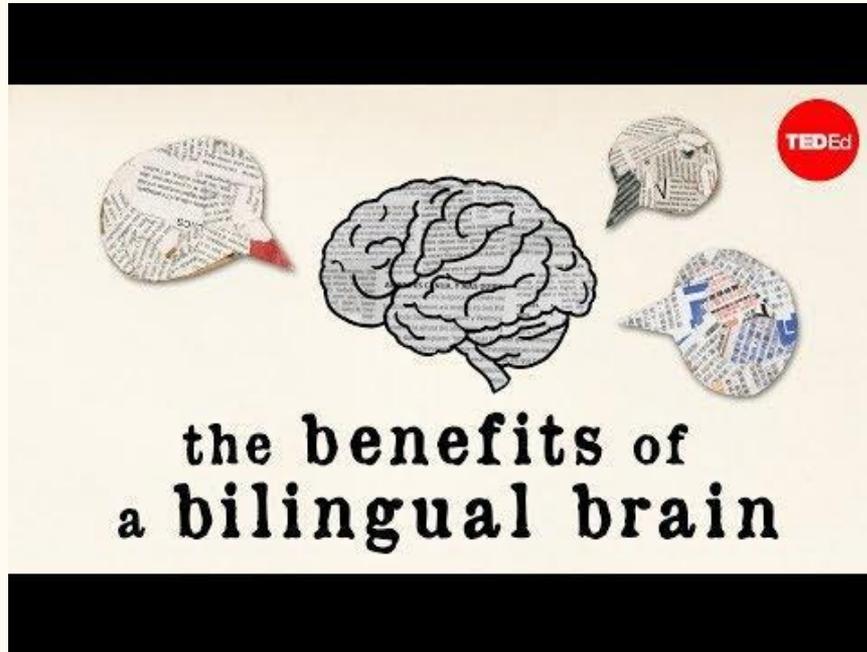


The Universal Framework

- “The same underlying cognitive and linguistic component skills” that contribute to learning to read in one language “contribute across diverse languages and writing systems” (Geva, 2006).
 - Letters represent sounds
 - Read from right to left
 - Written represent real objects, actions, images
 - Written language differs from spoken language



The Universal Framework



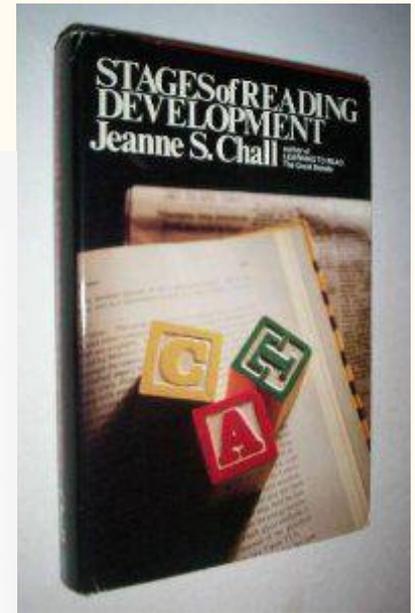
- There is a **transfer** that occurs between languages.
 - “The development of competence in a second language (L2) is partially a function of competence in L1 when intensive exposure to L2 begins” (Cummins, 1979).
 - If a child has strong L1 skills, then it will be easier to acquire L2.

Developmental Stages of Reading

Exhibit 3. Stages of Reading Development

Stage	Name	The Learner
Stage 0: Birth to Grade 1	Emergent Literacy	Gains control of oral language; relies heavily on pictures in text; pretends to read; recognizes rhyme
Stage 1: Beginning Grade 1	Decoding	Grows aware of sound/symbol relationships; focuses on printed symbols; attempts to break code of print; uses decoding to figure out words
Stage 2: End of Grade 1 to End of Grade 3	Confirmation and Fluency	Develops fluency in reading; recognizes patterns in words; checks for meaning and sense; knows a stock of sight words
Stage 3: Grade 4 to Grade 8	Learning the New (Single Viewpoint)	Uses reading as a tool for learning; applies reading strategies; expands reading vocabulary; comprehends from a singular point of view
Stage 4: Secondary and Early Higher Education	Multiple Viewpoints	Analyzes what is read; reacts critically to texts; deals with layers of facts and concepts; comprehends from multiple points of view
Stage 5: Late Higher Education and Graduate School	A Worldview	Develops a well-rounded view of the world through reading

Source: Roskos et al., 2009.



Acquiring a Second Language

Silent/Receptive

- Listens a lot
- Makes a link between what they know to “guess” what is being said

Early Production

- Begins to use single words or short sentences in French
- Comprehension improves

Speech Emergence

- Vocabulary improves
- Comprehension continues to improve
- Emergence of literacy skills

Intermediate Fluency

- Uses longer and more complex sentences, in speech and print
- Comprehension improves
- Literacy skills improve

Continued Development

- Understands more complex discussions and texts
- Pride in speaking French
- May begin to “think” in French

What does all of this mean?

- As a parent, you can help your child develop their French literacy skills. Even if you do not speak or read French yourself.
 - Providing a rich and varied language and literacy environment at home
 - Supporting the development of the 5 components of literacy
 - Nurturing your child's motivation to learn French
 - Providing exposure to French outside of school



Providing a rich and varied language and literacy environment

- When a child has more stimulation and more varied experiences, their language and literacy skills tend to develop better.
- To create a rich language and literacy environment:
 - Talk to your child about anything and everything!
 - Read every day! Make it fun and special.
 - Go on adventures! Visiting the zoo, a farm, a museum, taking a walk outside can help develop your child's vocabulary.



The 5 components of Literacy

Phonemic Awareness

The ability to identify, think about and manipulate the individual sounds that make up speech.

Phonics

Understanding of relationships between letters and sounds.

Fluency

Ability to read accurately and quickly.

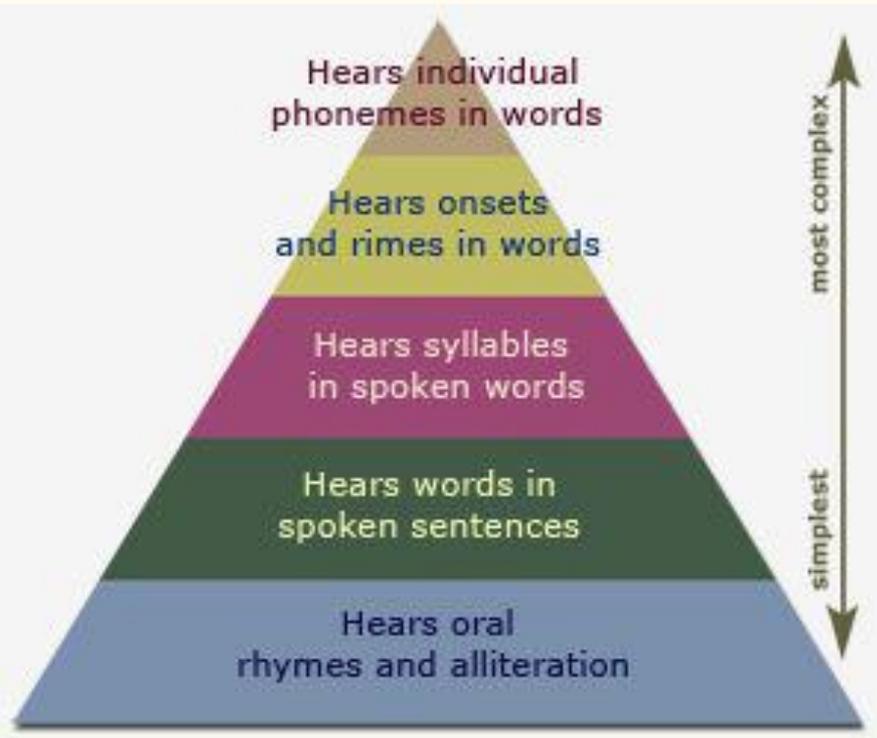
Vocabulary

We must have sufficient oral and reading vocabulary.

Comprehension

“Comprehension is the reason for reading. If readers can read the words but do not understand what they are reading, they are not really reading.”

Phonemic Awareness



- Phonemic awareness is the ability to
 - Identify, think about and manipulate the individual sounds that make up language.
- Research demonstrates that phonological awareness skills transfer across languages.
- Part of Pre-reading and Initial Reading stages.
 - Ages 4-7
 - Kindergarten to grade 2

Phonemic Awareness Activities

- Play a rhyming game
 - Thumbs up if the words rhyme, thumbs down if they don't
 - One of these does not belong: Say a list of three words and they find the one that does not rhyme
 - Different card games
- Blending words and syllables to make words
 - Robot talking: cup-cake makes cupcake, c-a-t makes cat
- Counting syllables
 - Clap in your hands or on your arm as you count syllables
- Poems and songs
 - <https://www.tfo.org/fr/> is a great place to find quality videos and songs in French.

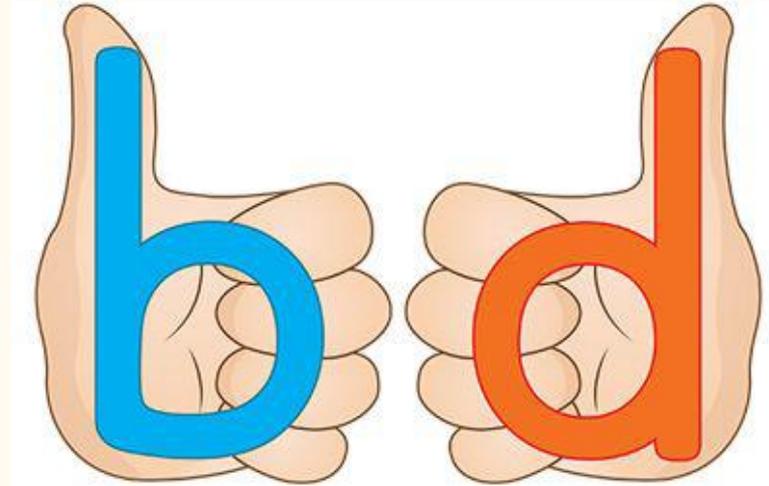
Phonics

- Understanding the relationship between letters and sounds
 - Letters represent sound
 - Letters make words
- Research shows that Kindergarten students who know more English letter names and sounds upon entry into French Immersion have better reading outcomes in Grade 3 in both French and English.
- Part of Pre-reading and Initial Reading stages.
 - Ages 4-7
 - Kindergarten to grade 2

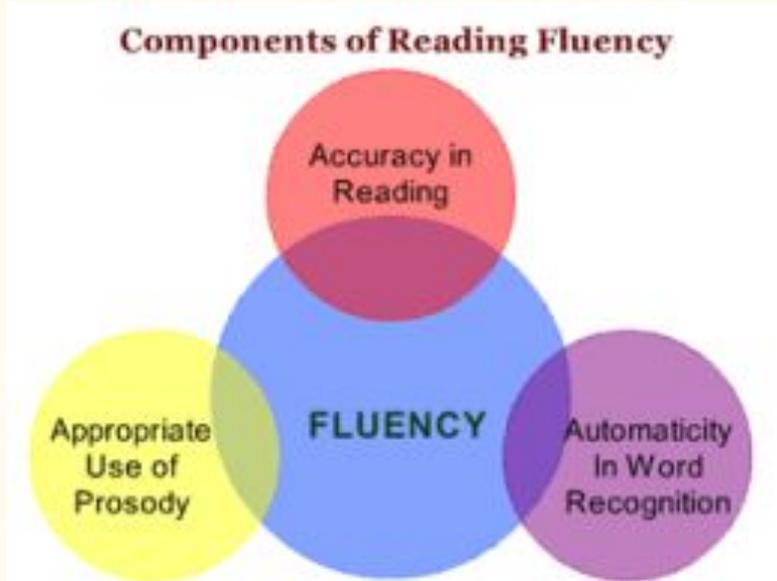
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0		zoo	0		âge
0		enfant	0		garçon
0		chat	0		bébé

Phonics Activities

- Sing the Alphabet
- Play “I spy”
 - I spy with my little eye something that begins with the letter B, with the letters SH
- Make letters and words with different material
 - Magnets
 - Dice
 - Wikisticks
 - Different coloured markers
- If your child reverses letters such as B and D
 - Try making them into drawings
 - Use your hands to make a BeD

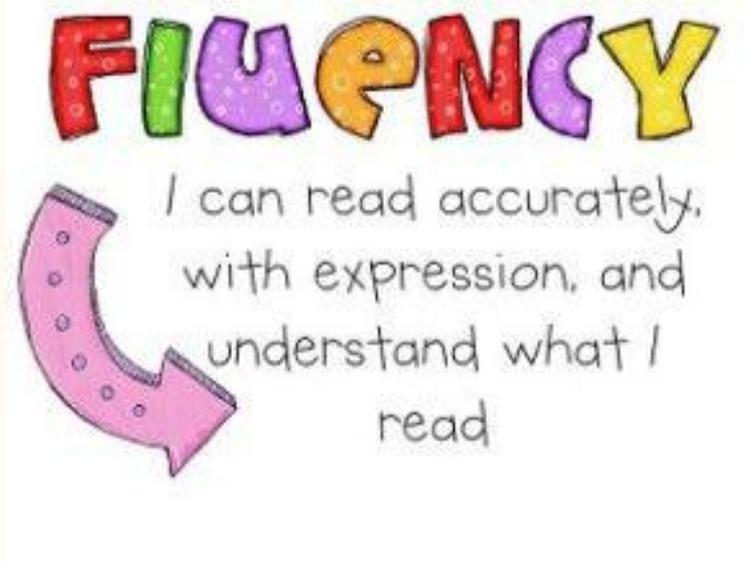


Fluency



- The ability to read accurately and quickly.
- It's the bridge between word recognition and comprehension.
- If the student has solid decoding skills, they will begin to apply these with more confidence.
- Part of the Confirmation and Fluency stage.
 - Ages 7-9
 - Grades 2-3

Fluency



- Poems and nursery rhymes are great tools
- Read easy texts that require little to no decoding many times
- Practice sight words using games and flash cards
- Talk about punctuation and its effects
 - ! means lots of expression
 - ? means our voice goes up
 - Actions can be very helpful
- Read to your child and model fluid and expressive reading

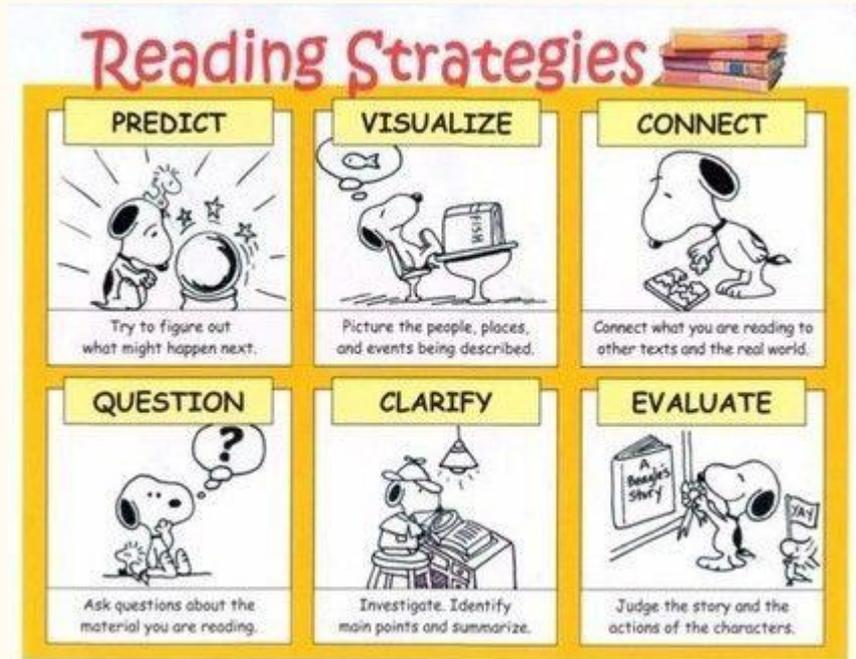
Vocabulary

- We have two kinds of vocabulary
 - Oral vocabulary used for speaking and listening
 - Reading vocabulary used for print words
- Vocabulary is critical for comprehension
 - It's also harder to decode unknown words
- Of course, more French vocabulary is always good.
 - More English vocabulary will also be helpful.
- We want to develop vocabulary through direct experiences and lots of reading throughout a child's life.



Comprehension

- Reading comprehension is a challenge for many French Immersion students.
 - Less vocabulary to draw on
 - Harder time accessing their background knowledge
- When you read, stop and ask
 - Who is in the story?
 - Where is it happening?
 - What is going on?
 - Model how you think about the story.
- We can start developing comprehension skills from the beginning.



French Books

- Keep in mind that most translations are done in Québec or France and may not be as accessible to French Immersion or FSL students.



Nurturing Motivation



- The motivation to learn in French is indispensable!
- Students need to feel like learning French is
 - Fun and engaging
 - Important and valued
 - Achievable
 - A source of pride

Making French Fun and Engaging



- Outside of school experiences in English and French are critical for helping children develop
 - A positive attitude towards learning
 - Vocabulary and background knowledge
- The Accent Alberta directory is a great resource for finding out of school French activities near you.

Takeaways

- ★ As a parent, you are your child's first teacher.
- ★ You can support your child's language and literacy development even if you don't speak French.
- ★ We want to support
 - Phonemic awareness: rhyming, beginning and end sounds
 - Phonics: letter names and sounds in English
 - Fluency: Read aloud! Practice sight words
 - Vocabulary: read a lot, out of school experiences in French and English
 - Comprehension: ask questions as you're reading, make drawings of what you've read
 - Motivation: make learning to read in French fun and accessible
- ★ There are lots of supports and resources available to you!

Helpful Resources

- <http://centre4literacy.com>
- <https://cpf.ca>
- <http://www.accentalberta.ca>
- <https://education.alberta.ca/media/563591/yesyoucanhelp.pdf>
- <https://www.tfo.org>
- Club de lecture from Scholastics, some Chapters/Indigos
- <http://www.renaud-bray.com/accueil.aspx>
- <https://bescherelle.com> For homework help
- <https://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/gr/> Great for homework help and grammar help for older students!