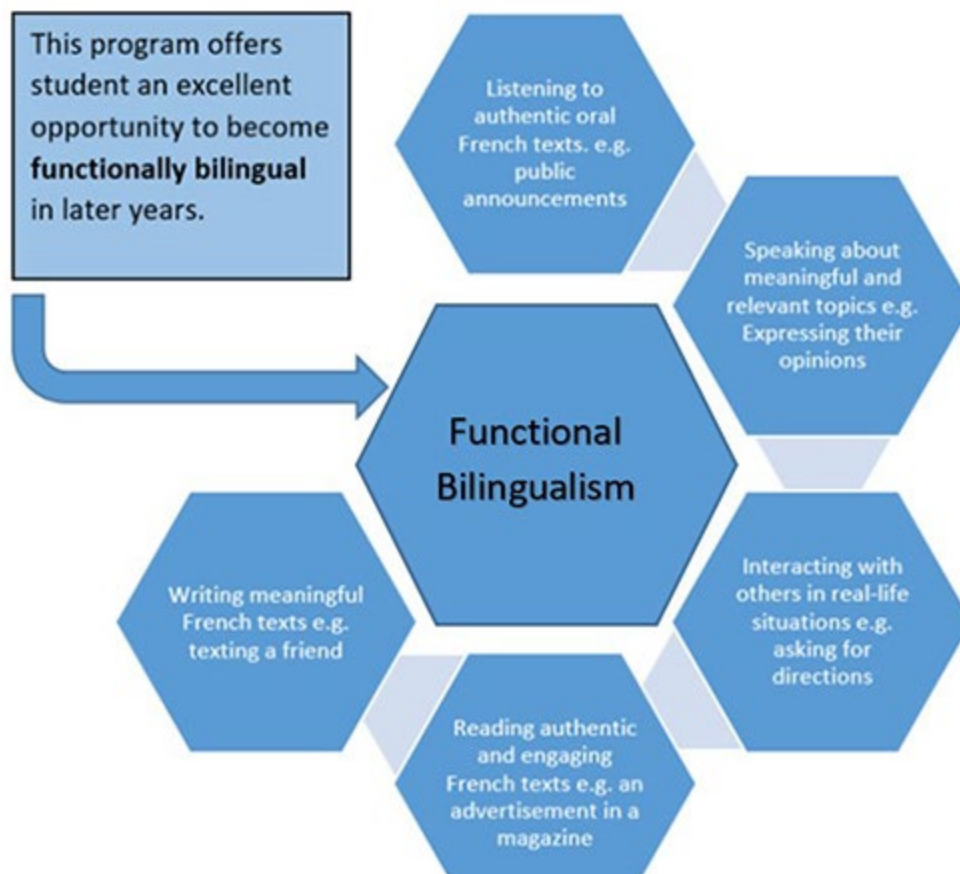


## What is French Immersion?

French Immersion is an educational program that provides students whose first language is not French with the opportunity to learn and become fluent in French. The program was first developed in Québec in the late 1960s, in response to demands from English-speaking parents who wanted their children to be fluent in both English and French. Today, over 100,000 students in Ontario are enrolled in French Immersion programs.

The goals of the French Immersion program are:

- To have an understanding of the cultures of French speaking societies.
- To be functionally bilingual by the end of Grade 12.
- To develop strong skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing in French.



## Why choose French Immersion?



### The French Immersion program is open to ALL students

Various ministry documents such as the [FSL Framework](#) confirm that FSL programs are for all students. The FSL curriculum policy documents ([Elementary/](#) [Secondary](#)) outline program and planning considerations to meet the needs of all students. They prescribe the importance of supporting all learners in FSL and include information about appropriate instructional approaches [1].

There are many considerations and factors which help parents and/or guardians make an informed decision about the French Immersion program for their child. These are:

- Enjoys and plays with language (rhyming and word games)
- Listens effectively (i.e. retell or explain a story in sequence)
- Displays strong communication skills (listening and speaking) in their mother tongue
- Follows directions and instructions

- Identifies and prints name, the alphabet and some words
- Demonstrates an awareness of individual sounds and sound patterns
- Cooperates with others and works /plays well in groups
- Perseveres and makes an effort when responding to challenges
- Looks for and acts on new ideas and opportunities
- Demonstrates a willingness to take risks
- Demonstrates curiosity and interest in learning
- Approaches new tasks with a positive attitude
- Regular attendance (known as a strong indicator for success)

These qualities encourage good learning habits in ALL subject areas.

### **How can I help my child in French Immersion?**

Many parents may have a limited background in French or may not speak the language at all. Parents do not need to know any French to support their children in French Immersion. Instead, parents can give their children the most help by providing encouragement and positive support.

The FSL curriculum documents ([Elementary/](#) [Secondary](#)) state that parent can also:

- Encourage their children to talk, read, and write at home in their first language to strengthen their first-language skills, which are the foundation for learning French.
- Read aloud to their children either in their first language or in French.
- Encourage their children to write in French (e.g., shopping lists, stories, a letter).
- Go to the library with their children to borrow books, music, and DVDs in their first language and in French, and talk about them with their children.
- Join a local group to meet other parents and to find out about French resources and cultural opportunities in the community. [\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

### **FSL Family Literacy Event - May 2022**

The goals of the event were to:

- To equip parents with tools and resources to support their child in developing listening, speaking, and reading skills in all French language programs.
- To develop a common understanding of what literacy could look like and sound like in elementary French language programs.

Click on the links below to access information shared during the FSL family literacy evening event:

[FSL Family Literacy Evening Event Recording](#)  
[Additional Resources for Parents/Guardians of FSL Students](#)

### **At-Home FSL Activities for French Immersion Students**

Looking for extra practice to build your child's French proficiency in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing?

Try our [Monthly FSL Activities for Students](#)



**French as a  
Second Language  
Activities for Home**

Extra practice for elementary  
students and families  
in FSL Programs

*Gr. 1 - 8 French Immersion and  
Gr. 5 - 8 Extended French*

 Dufferin-Peel  
Catholic District  
School Board

For more information about the French Immersion Program, please contact the FSL Program Department at 905-890-0708 ext. 24374.