



Supporting Our French Learners Through Experiential Learning: Immersion and Core

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How do I support my child in French

- First off all you have already made the right decision by having them study French beyond the provincial requirements for their O.S.S.D.
- Although many parents don't speak French you can support your child, simply by being involved and asking questions.
- Many parents who can't support their child with personal knowledge of the language, might look to experiential learning!

What is Experiential learning?

- “In its simplest form, experiential learning means learning from experience or learning by doing. Experiential education first immerses learners in an experience and then encourages reflection about the experience to develop new skills, new attitudes, or new ways of thinking.”
- Experiential learning doesn't treat each subject as compartmentalized but works to create an interdisciplinary learning experience that mimics real world learning.

Why is this important for French

- Experiential learning connects students with authentic experiences where they can practically apply their existing knowledge and capabilities.
- Often many Senior core French students and Immersion students don't have any meaningful connection to the language and culture.
- Comfort and facility in language comes from real-world experience where you think and complete task in the language.

Benefits of Experiential Learning

- Accelerates Learning
- Connects theory and practice
- Increases engagement
- Personalized Learning
- Greater content retention
- Highly subsidized by government and community organizations***

The possibilities!

- Study Exchanges
- Explore (Canadian government)
- YMCA summer work exchange
- Ambassador program: French for the Future
- Work exchanges
- Odyssey (Canadian Government)
- TAPIF program (French government)
- Parliamentary Guide program

My Odyssey



Barriers in our Community

- Lack of Awareness
- New community members
- Language
- Financial resources (perceived)
- Assumptions about French Immersion

Educational Equity in French

- Replication of cycles of advantage and disadvantage: both are closely linked to financial resources, parental education, and navigating points of access to resources.
- Community resources are often overlooked and underutilized (Counting on You in the PDSB)
- Accessing programs simply involves planning and parent engagement of planning your child's educational pathway. (Earlier the better!)

Online resources

- www.frenchstreet.ca
- French Street
- www.on.cpf.ca
- Canadian Parents for French
- *For more information grab a French department brochure