













~ How To Help Your Child In Core English ~

- 📖 Buy them a dictionary of their own and encourage them to use it constantly.
- 📖 Get them writing at home as much as possible.
 - ✓ dictate your grocery list to them
 - ✓ have them write reminder notes for the fridge – buy sticky notes for them to write the message on
 - ✓ have them write to a relative ... in or out of town
 - ✓ buy them special writing paper, or have them make it on the computer
 - ✓ encourage them to take part in writing contests – The Spectator often has them
 - ✓ buy them a diary or a book they can use as a journal and encourage them to write in it every night
 - ✓ if you go away, have them keep a travel log or journal and share it with their class when they get back
- 📖 Read **to** them, with **them** and have them read to you. Let them see you reading. Set aside sometime every day to read to your child, in a cozy, quiet, place.
- 📖 Encourage your child to read anything that interests them. Goosebumps and Pokeman manuals are not the 'best' literature in the world, but if your child enjoys reading them, *they are reading*, and learning to read better. Some ideas for reading could be:
 - ✓ comics
 - ✓ magazines
 - ✓ non-fiction books about something they are interested. (sports, music, etc)
 - ✓ collector's cards (Pokeman, sports, etc.)
 - ✓ fiction books that are popular at the time (Goosebumps, Robert Munch, etc.)
- 📖 Join the library with them and make it a weekly ritual to visit the library and exchange books.
- 📖 Go over their homework with them, check to see if they are correcting their spelling and get them to use their dictionary to make corrections.
- 📖 Get them to use their spelling words from school in sentences, stories, etc., at home or make up a game (bingo, scrabble, etc.) to go over the spelling words.
- 📖 If you have concerns, check with your child's teacher to see if he/she has any suggestions.
- 📖 Because English is so important to a French Immersion student, make sure you communicate with the Core English teacher on a regular basis. If your child is experiencing some difficulty, ask for a meeting with the French Immersion teacher, Core English teacher and the L.R.T. to see if extra help is available and what *you can do* to help your child at home.

~ Information Sheet for Assisting Immersion Students ~

Around report card time, English-speaking parents often ask how they can assist their child in French Immersion. Following are some suggestions directed mostly at Junior or Intermediate students.

Speaking	Listening
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Re-inforce the importance of speaking only French within the classroom. Sometimes, by late elementary school, students develop the poor habit of slipping into English when not directly supervised by the teacher. This can hinder their progress by taking away valuable time to practise speaking skills with peers within the classroom.  Encourage your child to use French outside the classroom. Students are sometimes hesitant to do this, but if a specific "situation" is created, they may be more agreeable. For example, parents could designate that the student must make one phone call a day to a classmate, in which they speak only French. Alternately, a place (such as the back seat of the car) could be designated as "French-only" where the student and his friends, or siblings in Immersion only speak French. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Discuss the importance of listening skills generally. A student who is truly attentive is actively concentrating as well as listening. If your child feels they are not comprehending every word, encourage him/her to listen for cognates (words sounding similar to English words; ex: "investigation") and build meaning around these. Stress that this building and clarifying ambiguity is how people learn languages.  Have your child choose 1 or 2 television programs with which they are familiar and watch them on the French channel. As a gesture of support, parents could watch also and the child could explain the show later in a family discussion.
Reading	Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Ask your child's teacher to help him/her choose a novel in French at the appropriate reading level and that your child finds interesting.  Establish a nightly reading time of 20 – 30 minutes during which the entire family reads. Afterwards, have your child explain what they have read. This often helps consolidate their own French comprehension.  Students also sometimes need reassurance about their reading. When reading in a second language, it is normal not to understand every word. Encourage them to extract the global meaning of a passage rather than dwelling on the fact that they don't understand one small word. Obviously, if that one small word keeps re-appearing in every sentence and is key to understanding, they may need to consult a dictionary, but this shouldn't occur too often.  If students are also practicing reading for their English teacher, they may choose to alternate languages, reading in French one night, English the next. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  One spin-off of increased reading is that students observe correct structures and vocabulary that they may be able to use in their writing.  Have your child read his/her compositions aloud to you. Although an English parent may not be able to assist with editing, if the child is able to read their own work fluently aloud, without constantly wanting to stop to make corrections, they have probably addressed many proofreading issues.  Parents can also assist with several editing principles, such as neatness, paragraphing, spelling of words that are the same in English and French, as well as consistency. For instance, if a child spells a known word a certain way, it should probably be spelled the same way throughout his/her text.  By late elementary school, it is probably a good idea for each child to have his/her own basic dictionary at home.

* English-only speaking parents can still be a great assistance to their children by following some of the above suggestions, as well as providing encouragement and all of the other supports they provide for the English portions of the programme.

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