

BONJOUR

WELCOME TO THE PRIMARY FRENCH PROGRAM

Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Lab School

OISE - University of Toronto

At the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Lab School, our Primary French Program combines the Accelerated Integrated Method (AIM), the Gesture Approach, and traditional learning methods. Through engaging, developmentally appropriate experiences, students are introduced to French in a way that builds confidence, encourages participation, and fosters a genuine enjoyment of language learning. Our goal is to create a positive, inclusive, and engaging French learning environment where students feel comfortable taking risks, communicating, and developing a lifelong appreciation for the French language and Francophone cultures.

Junior Kindergarten

Students participate in French twice a week for 30 minutes. Our JK program focuses on creating a positive and welcoming first experience with French. Students are introduced to essential vocabulary through meaningful, playful, and interactive activities connected to their everyday experiences. Throughout the year, students explore topics such as colours, shapes, numbers, animals, and common greetings. Songs, stories, movement, and gestures are incorporated regularly to reinforce new vocabulary and make learning memorable. The emphasis at this stage is on listening, understanding, participation, and developing confidence. Through a fun and supportive approach, students begin to build a strong foundation for their future French learning.

Senior Kindergarten

Students meet with the French teacher three times a week for 30 minutes. Building on their JK experience, students continue to develop their French through oral communication, songs, games, stories, gestures, and interactive activities. This year, students expand their vocabulary and explore foundational concepts such as counting to 20, identifying shapes and colours, and communicating about familiar topics. They are also introduced to early French literacy skills, including recognizing letters, sounds, and simple words. Students also explore themes



related to school, seasons, the five senses, space, and special occasions, providing meaningful opportunities to use French in familiar contexts. The focus is on developing listening comprehension, oral communication, confidence, and an enjoyment of learning French.



Grade One

Students meet with the French teacher four times a week for 30 minutes. In Grade One, students continue to strengthen their oral communication skills while expanding their vocabulary and understanding of French. Throughout the year, students explore topics including greetings, days of the week, months, seasons, counting, classroom objects, body parts, animals, family, and special occasions. Students are also introduced to French phonology, with a focus on sounds, pronunciation, and sound-letter relationships. The *Gesture Approach* continues to support students' comprehension and communication by connecting language with movement and meaning. This year also marks an exciting step in the AIM program as students begin *Histoires en Action*, exploring the story *La Poule Maboule*. Through storytelling, gestures, repetition, and active participation, students develop their ability to understand and communicate in French with increasing confidence.

Grade Two

Students meet with the French teacher four times a week for 30 minutes, in two smaller groups to support more focused instruction and meaningful opportunities for communication. In Grade Two, students continue to develop their skills in the four key language areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students build their vocabulary and confidence through engaging, interactive, and immersive learning experiences. They also begin to explore important aspects of French phonology, including consonant and vowel sounds, as well as building and expanding short sentences. The *Accelerated Integrated Method (AIM)* remains an important part of the program, providing students with meaningful opportunities to communicate through gesture, movement, storytelling, and repetition. A highlight of the Grade Two curriculum is the *Histoires en Action* story *Les trois petits cochons* (The Three Little Pigs). Through this story-based approach, students strengthen their language skills while developing their understanding and appreciation of the French language and Francophone cultures.

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