

Family Guide to **French** IMMERSION



Rooted. Growing. Reaching. Transforming.



GREATER
SASKATOON
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS

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Welcome to the French immersion program offered by Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools!

We are glad you have made the decision to give your child the gift of learning in an additional language. You may have questions as you begin this journey and we offer this Family Guide to support you.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools currently offers French immersion programs in **11 elementary schools and four high schools**. Most students enter the French immersion program in kindergarten. Most, or all, of the school day is conducted in French for kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 classes. English instruction is added in Grade 3. Some of our schools have only French immersion while others offer a French immersion stream as well as an English stream.

School	Neighbourhood	Phone #	Grade	Stream
Saskatoon French School	Holiday Park	306.659.7490	K-8	French
École Cardinal Leger School	College Park	306.659.7190	K-8	French/English
École Holy Mary School	Martensville	306.659.7870	K-8	French/English
École St. Gerard School	Mount Royal	306.659.7330	K-8	French
École St. Matthew School	Brevoort Park	306.659.7410	K-8	French
École St. Paul School	North Park	306.659.7430	K-8	French
École Sister O'Brien School	Silverwood	306.659.7480	K-8	French
École St. Mother Teresa School	Silverspring	306.659.7240	K-8	French/English
École St. Peter School	Dundonald	306.659.7440	K-8	French/English
*École St. Luke School	Lakeridge	306.659.7370	K-8	French/English
*École Father Robinson School	Erindale	306.659.7200	K-8	French/English
Bethlehem Catholic High School	Blairmore	306.659.7900	9-12	French/English
Bishop James Mahoney High School	Lawson Heights	306.659.7500	9-12	French/English
Holy Cross High School	Nutana Suburban Centre	306.659.7600	9-12	French/English
St. Joseph High School	University Heights Suburban Centre	306.659.7650	9-12	French/English

Above: *Expanding one grade per year to have K-8 by 2026-27



We offer Core French in six elementary schools and one high school. Students learn French as an academic subject.

School	Neighbourhood	Phone number	Core French offered in Grades
St. Anne School	River Heights	306.659.7260	Grades 1-8
École St. Luke School	Lakeridge	306.659.7370	Grades 1-8
St. Philip School	Adelaide Park Churchill	306.659.7450	Grades 1-8
École St. Mother Teresa School	Silverspring	306.659.7240	Grades 6-8
St. Augustine School	College Park East	306.659.7270	Grades 1-8
St. Bernard School	Lakeview	306.659.7280	Grades 1-8
Holy Cross High School	Nutana Suburban Centre	306.659.7600	Grades 9-12

A brief history

Saskatchewan's first French speakers arrived as part of the fur trade. Many Métis families and communities trace their heritage to this era in our history. Roman Catholic missionaries were among the first francophone settlers, and French speaking families from Quebec and other French speaking areas in Ontario and the Maritimes joined them and established towns, schools, churches and businesses. Most of these families were farmers who were eager to work the land. Immigrants also arrived from France and Belgium. Francophone communities worked hard to keep French alive and well in a predominantly English speaking province. In 1982, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guaran-

teed minority education rights. Throughout Saskatchewan, these historic communities paved the way for more recent immigration from French speaking areas around the world.

Saskatchewan has a public francophone school system (Conseil des écoles francosaskoises - CÉF) which operates province-wide. Most students attending these schools have at least one French-speaking parent. Schools operated by CÉF are characterized by their commitment to academics, culture and community. We have a special term, "Fransaskois" to refer to Saskatchewan residents with French heritage.

French immersion was born from the desire parents felt for their children to have the opportunity to be bilingual. In 1966, Saskatoon French School (École française de Saskatoon) was founded by a group of parents to provide French education for their children, and soon after, two Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (École St. Paul School and École St. Matthew School) also began offering French immersion. Many of our current teachers, administrators and school division personnel are graduates of our French immersion program.



Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs

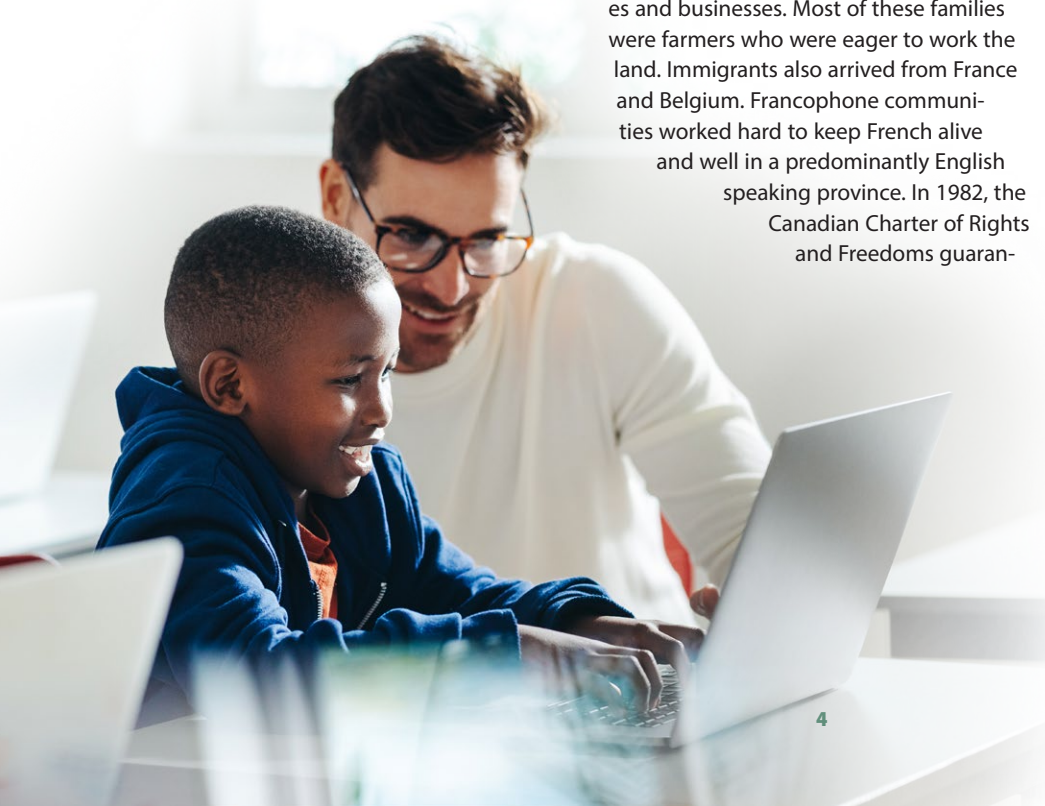
At what age does French immersion begin?

Students entering kindergarten are welcomed into one of our 11 elementary schools that offer French immersion. Typically, kindergarten is the entry point, although sometimes students begin in Grade 1.

What kind of French is taught?

English speakers are familiar with the regional differences in accents and vocabulary in English as it is spoken in countries around the world. French is very similar. Our teachers come from a variety of backgrounds so your child will be exposed to accents and vocabulary from many differ-

ent regions, but the grammar and sentence structure is standard. During your child's French immersion education, they are likely to have teachers from around the French speaking world that will enrich their understanding of the French language. Many of your child's teachers are graduates of French immersion programs.





At what point will my child be completely bilingual?

Learning a second language is a life-long process. Even in one's first language, learning continues as we encounter new vocabulary throughout a lifetime depending on one's career and interests. In Europe, the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference) puts language learning on a continuum of A1-A2-B1-B2-C1-C2 with A1 being "beginning language learners" and C2 being "native speakers". If your child continues in the French program until the end of Grade 12, they will likely attain a B2 level, meaning that they can interact effectively with native French speakers as well as understand and produce complex oral and written texts. The amount of time that your child spends interacting in French during these years will impact their fluency. Anything you, as a family, can do to increase the amount of French your child experiences will contribute to your child's proficiency in French.

How will my child learn to read and write in English if they are studying in French?

Language skills transfer from one language to another. This means that your child's English (or other home language) skills and knowledge will support their French language development, and the work they do at school in French (letters and sounds, reading left to right, punctuation and printing) will transfer to English. English Language Arts (ELA) instruction begins in Grade 3. If your child is reading and writing at grade level in French at this point, they may transition to reading and writing in English without explicit instruction. The alphabet in both languages is the same, and many of the consonant sounds are the same in both languages. Learning the spelling rules in English is typically the area where your child will have the most challenges, but research shows that French immersion students close the gap by Grade 4 or 5.

What if no one at home can speak French?

Very few parents of French immersion students speak French. Your main role is to support your child's learning by being supportive and enthusiastic. Provide opportunities for your child to experience French outside of school by looking at French books, viewing French programming, and attending French language/cultural events in Saskatoon.

Having a positive attitude about French is a huge gift to your child.

How do parents assist with homework if we don't speak French?

Typically homework begins in Grade 1 and will consist of your child reading aloud to you for about 10 minutes each evening. **Please create a routine for your child where they have your full attention and minimize distractions. Make this a positive experience and affirm their**





effort. Your role isn't to teach them the homework but simply to listen to what they are learning at school. Many teachers will provide short videos or clips to support homework. Establishing this routine right from the beginning of Grade 1 will set your child up for success. Please don't try to just do the homework on the weekends. A short daily session is much more effective than a longer session once a week. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

What does my child need to know before they begin school?

Self-care skills are the most important things you can help your child to learn before school begins. Putting on their own jacket and shoes, using the washroom independently, asking for help when needed, opening food containers, using scissors, putting on ski pants, mittens, coats and boots, and carrying their own backpack will make the transition to school much easier for your child.

How will I know if my child is making progress?

Progress reports are issued on Edsby twice a year in kindergarten and three times a year in Grades 1 - 8. Two times a year, you will have a formal opportunity to meet in person with your child's teacher and your child for a conference time to discuss your child's progress. You may also receive information on Edsby during the school year letting you see how things are going. If you have any questions or concerns, your child's teacher will be happy to speak with you before or after school or by telephone if you request a meeting in advance.

What happens if my child is struggling academically?

Your child's teacher will know if your child is struggling, and they will be given additional support during instructional time. If your child requires more support, each of our schools

have educational assistants and a Learning Assistance Teacher who may be able to further assist students and teachers to meet the needs of students. Teachers will work with families to address challenges in learning. Please discuss concerns with your child's teacher.

Is French immersion only for academically strong students?

Research shows that if a child struggles in French, they will also likely struggle in English. We have the same supports in place in French immersion as in the English stream. We will work with you as a team to address any learning challenges your child may experience.

What school supplies does my child need and how much are school fees?

Each school provides a list of school supplies that families are asked to provide. We encourage families to reuse supplies from the previous school year when possible. A few schools provide an option to purchase school supplies online or to pay a set amount and the teacher will purchase supplies as needed. In general, parents are not

required to pay any fees in Saskatchewan except for specialized programs in the upper grades.

Do students wear uniforms?

Our students do not wear uniforms. We encourage students to wear comfortable clothing and shoes that are good for running and playing in.

Our family does not speak English or French. Can my child still enrol?

We have many families who speak languages other than English or French. You are welcome to enrol in French immersion. Interpreters can be provided for parents during conferences, and we can connect you with other French immersion parents who speak the same home language as you, if that would be helpful. Please ask!

What can we do to prepare our child academically?

Academic success can be reliably predicted by a child's ability to speak their first language and by recognizing numbers and letters. Talk to your child, read them books to expand their vocabulary, play games with sounds, have magnetic letters and numbers on your refrigerator, and make sure your child sees you reading and writing. Children imitate what they see. If you value literacy, they will too!



Tips for a Great Start to Your Child's Education



- 1) Learning a second language can be physically, mentally and emotionally exhausting. Please expect your child to be tired after a long day of work. They may be more emotional than usual. This doesn't mean they don't like school, so please, don't worry.
- 2) Prioritize your child getting to bed early in order to be well-rested for school.
- 3) One organized after-school activity is a good start when beginning French immersion.
- 4) Consider community activities for your child to support their social and emotional development. You may find that competitive sports or private music lessons are too demanding while your child is settling into French immersion. Every child is different, so be prepared to be flexible.
- 5) Book a vision exam before school begins.
- 6) Book a dental check-up before school begins.
- 7) Hearing screens will be done at school at the beginning of kindergarten. Students with frequent colds, ear infections and sore throats often have reduced hearing which impacts learning.
- 8) When buying shoes for your child for school, make sure your child can put them on and take them off. Shoe laces are best reserved for older children who don't need assistance.
- 9) Labeling your child's belongings will minimize loss. Several companies create customized labels for school supplies, lunch containers and clothing.
- 10) Read the school newsletter and plan to volunteer at your child's school if you have the opportunity.
- 11) Establish a daily homework routine with your child.
- 12) Establish a routine for your child to unpack and pack their own school bag and lunch box, decide where school library books will be kept, and where their homework supplies will go when they arrive home from school.
- 13) Get your child a Saskatoon (or Martensville) Library card and plan regular visits to borrow library books. Make reading aloud to your child part of your routine, even once your child can read themselves.
- 14) Involve your child in using a paper calendar to keep track of important school events such as library exchange day, hot lunches, conferences, concerts, dress up days and school holidays so that your child begins to experience responsibility and skills in planning.
- 15) Use items that will support your child's learning such as fridge magnets with letters and numbers, a dry-erase board for practicing letters and numbers, pencils, crayons, and scissors. (Note: If your child is left-handed, there are special scissors available which will assist them in learning to cut properly. The left-side blade will rise instead of the right-side blade.)



Family Involvement in the School Community

We encourage families to get involved in our school communities. Each school is unique, but all will welcome your involvement!

- 1) Read the school newsletter to stay up-to-date about school activities and opportunities.
- 2) Edsby is the platform we use to report student absences, facilitate communication between home and school, and to communicate student progress. Set up your notifications, or check regularly for updates.
- 3) Each school has a Catholic School Community Council (CSCC) with monthly meetings of parents and school administrators. The CSCC supports academic, spiritual, physical and social needs of the school community. They plan activities, make decisions, and raise funds to support school initiatives. You can become involved as little or as much as you desire. Come join the community!
- 4) Book a conference time two times a year. Your child's teacher looks forward to meeting with you and your child to celebrate successes, find ways to address challenges and plan goals for future learning.
- 5) Community events and fundraising events take place several times a year in many of our schools during the school day as well as in the evening. Please join us!
- 6) We welcome volunteers in our schools however, we require a Criminal Record Check (CRC) each year. The school office will be able to provide you with a letter that you can take to the Saskatoon Police Station/RCMP during their office hours to facilitate this process.
- 7) If you have time to volunteer during the school day, here are some areas that teachers would love to have assistance with: reading with small groups of students, supervising art projects, checking-out library books, making a presentation on a topic (eg. career, hobby), or accompanying the class on a field trip.
- 8) Consider volunteering to be a classroom parent. Duties vary depending on the class, but you would be the parent that the teacher could call on to be the liaison between the parents in the class and teacher. You might assist with hot lunch days, coordinate contact information for the other parents in the class, plan an informal gathering for parents, or reach out to new families that arrive during the year.



Social and Emotional Development

Kindergarten and Grade 1 are big years for your child in learning to manage their emotions and making friends. If your child is struggling in these areas, rest assured that this is normal. Part of parenting is helping your child navigate these areas of development!

If you find your child is having a very difficult time, is extremely anxious, angry or frustrated, please communicate with your child's teacher and consider looking for community resources and organizations that can support you as you help your child. Workshops, counseling, and support groups are some of the ways that might help.



Making friends is important as your child begins school. Consider coordinating with other parents in your child's class to share contact information so that you can plan to get children together to play outside of school. Even just planning to meet at the playground or going for a walk outside of school hours is a great way to let your child socialize with other children that they enjoy being with at school. It will also give you a glimpse into how your child is interacting with their classmates.

Learning to play games at home provides opportunities for your child to win, to lose, to share and to take turns. All of these are essential skills in being a good friend and some children need many opportunities to practice these social skills in a safe environment with a parent before using these skills with other children.

Dealing with disappointment is a part of growing up. Be sure to acknowledge your child's feelings rather than dismissing them. "Oh, you were disappointed when you

couldn't have the first turn. That's hard, isn't it? I remember feeling like that too, when I was five." Your child needs to see that their feelings are valid and that they will pass.

Taking turns is very difficult, especially if your child hasn't had many opportunities to practice this skill. Verbalizing, "My turn, your turn," when you are interacting with them will help them to tolerate waiting at school.

Communication is very important. Encourage your child to ask for help and be sure to respond to them before they are frustrated. This will help them to understand that at school they may need to ask an adult for help, not just hope an adult notices they need help. When you respond quickly, they will see that they don't need to become emotional to get your attention. Help them to verbalize what exactly they need assistance with as this will enable them to know how to ask their teacher for help. "Mom, I can't reach my hat. Could you get it down for me, please?"

Emotions are normal, and they are okay.

Part of growing up is learning how to manage our big feelings. Identifying a feeling is very healthy. As adults, we often want the behaviour to just stop, but we forget that children need to learn how to process the feeling instead of bottling it up. Teaching your child to say what they are feeling, and providing them with some explicit strategies for dealing with those feelings, will pay big dividends at both home and school.

"I see you are feeling frustrated with your brother. Let's take a big breath, hold it and let it out with a big noise. Great! Let's do it again. Now, let's jump up and down 14 times."

Boundaries are essential for healthy growth. We all need to feel that we have personal control. If someone is bothering your child, they need to know what to do. "I don't like it when you touch my arm." "That's my hat. Please give it to me." "NO! Stop." Practice using words to communicate. Your child is going to need to set boundaries, so give them the skills to communicate what they need.



Building French Opportunities Outside of School

The more your child is exposed to the French language, the more they will learn. In order to become proficient, 40 per cent of the child's waking hours in French is the target. A school day will not achieve this, so anything families can do to increase the amount of interaction their child has in French will contribute to proficiency.

The following are some ideas of how you can increase your child's exposure to French while living in Saskatoon.

French Language Books at Home

You can ensure that your child has access to books at home with no cost by borrowing materials from the Saskatoon Public Library.

Saskatoon Public Library (nine locations around Saskatoon)

Each library branch has a French collection. You can order specific titles from other Saskatoon branches and if none of our local libraries have the book you would like, it can be ordered from any library in Saskatchewan! With a free library card, you are able to borrow up to 100 items at a time at no cost.



Some libraries have a French story time; check online or inquire at your local branch.

<https://saskatoonlibrary.ca>

The following merchants all carry French language books and materials:

Indigo and **McNally Robinson** both have a selection of French language books for sale and are able to order in other titles on request.

www.indigo.ca

www.mcnallyrobinson.com

You can purchase books and gift items (with French slogans)

Renaud-Bray: based in Montreal

<https://www.renaud-bray.com>

Nation Fransaskoise: Books, games, toys, Fransaskois gift items, clothing.

Thurs (noon-6), Friday (noon-6), Sat (10-6)
120 Sonnenschein Way #100, Saskatoon (Riversdale)

<https://nationfransaskoise.ca/en>



French Language Music

Children love music. Many teachers use music to help children learn vocabulary and sentence structure while having fun. Here are some of our favourite artists. Their music can be found on Apple Music, YouTube, Amazon, and Saskatoon Public Library. Playing French language music while playing, tidying up, driving or eating is a great way to increase exposure to French.

Will's Jams

Will Stroet

Seeka

Alain Le Lait

Carmen Campagne

Charlotte Diamond

Jacquot

Henri Dès

Alex Mahé

Matt Maxwell

Communauté du Chemin Neuf

Église Lyon Centre

Emmanuel Music

Soeur Agathe

Youtube - Chansons au Powerpoint - Sylvia Duckworth

French Viewing

Do you already subscribe to streaming services such as Disney+, Amazon Prime, Netflix, CBC Gem? You can simply switch the language track to French. You can also turn on French subtitles. If your child has favourite TV shows or movies that they love to rewatch, you could have them watch them in French since they already know what is happening.

French Language Games

French Board Games - Conveniently, Canadian games come with bilingual instructions. Consider purchasing games such as Sorry, Othello, Uno, Trouble, Snakes and Ladders, Dutch Blitz, Jenga or Guess Who and use the French instructions to play in French at home. Even simply counting in French as you play together has great benefits in learning to wait their turn, counting one number per square and learning how to win and lose graciously.



Apprentissage Illimité from Manitoba is a company that creates French language resources for French programs. In kindergarten and Grade 1, your child will likely encounter stories about a brother and sister—Paul et Suzanne—from this company. They have a beautiful game resource kit that would provide your child practice in vocabulary and sentence structures in French. The kit comes with an English language DVD and booklet to explain to parents how to play.

<http://apprentissage.ca>

French Audio and Viewing Platforms Online

Idélo - IDÉLLO is Ontario's provincial French language educational platform, specially designed for school staff in Canada. Choose from nearly 15,000 pieces of educational content (videos, games, podcasts, and teaching tools) sorted by subject and grade level. Teachers can create class codes for home use.

If parents want complete access to the platform, individual subscriptions cost \$3.99 per month or purchase an annual subscription for \$39.90, which essentially means

you get two months free!

<https://idello.org/en>

Lecture Enfant is an online reading program from Ontario designed for French immersion students. Some GSCS classrooms purchase a year subscription for their classroom. If your classroom doesn't, you can subscribe as a family for only \$55. We highly recommend this one for Grades 1 - 6. The books are pre-recorded, and children can follow along as the cursor moves on screen.

<https://lectureenfant.net>

Radio-Canada - Ohdio: Radio-Canada is the French language counterpart to CBC. The free app Ohdio has programming in French including radio stations, audio books, podcasts and music. You can access Ohdio on a computer or mobile device.

<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/ohdio>

RadioFrance - similar to Radio-Canada, France has an app with a children's section "Podcasts pour enfants". These podcasts are great to listen to in the car and at bedtime.

<https://www.radiofrance.com>



French Apps

While we encourage you to limit screen time for your child, we do have helpful recommendations. These are a great alternative to random YouTube videos and TikTok where the content may be inappropriate.

Kindergarten and Grade 1 French Immersion

Basic Vocabulary and Interactive Activities

- **Mini-TFO** - Devine qui vient jouer?
- **Mini-TFO - ABC** (find and count, where is it?, matching activities)
- **TFO** (traditional French songs)
- **MindSnacks** (Grades 1-2)
- **FeedMe** (fun vocabulary activities with hungry monsters)
- **Mes Premiers mots gratuits** (my first words free)
- **Boowa & Kwala** (series on a variety of topics with activities)
- **Duolingo**
- **Frenchie Teachie** (abcs, games, food and objects vocabulary)

Stories (reading with and without audio support)

- **TFO - Zoubi Doubi** (animated story about cars series - listen or read)
- **Tembo 4 French** (by Bubble Books - reading with or without audio)
- **Lire-tot** (basic first reader e-book no audio)
- **Ana Lomba Early Languages** (story series - read and/or listen)
- **Les Comptines de Zoreil** (songs with amusing video & lyrics)

Opportunities for Parents to Learn French

University of Saskatchewan - Multilingual Conversational Languages

Non-credit conversation language classes offered year round in many languages including French, at a variety of skill levels.

306-966-5539

<https://artsandscience.usask.ca/noncredit/languages/language-schedule.php>



Comme une française (YouTube) -

This online learning platform was created by Geraldine Lepère from Grenoble, France where she explains expressions, vocabulary and French culture. Paid content is also available but the free content on YouTube is excellent. She speaks in both English and French.

<https://www.commeunefrancaise.com>

Français Authentique - (YouTube) -

Another online learning platform, created by Johan Tekfak from France offers free weekly email with links to his podcast and YouTube videos. Paid content is also available for serious students but the free content is excellent. He speaks solely in French but speaks slowly and clearly. Often, his family appears in the videos.

<https://www.francaisauthentique.com>

Teaching website - On apprend en français (We Learn in French!) -

Many of our teachers use this website to support learning in the classroom and at home. You will find homework help, links to stories, songs and videos.

onapprendenfrancais.ca

Opportunities for Families to Experience French in Saskatoon

Did you know that Saskatoon has many French opportunities?

Saints Martyrs Canadiens - Come experience Mass in French! Prions en église (the order of readings at Mass) is distributed weekly so you can follow along and respond with the congregation.

1007 Windsor St. Saskatoon,
Sunday Mass at 11h00.

<https://smc.saskatooncatholic.ca>

Canadian Parents for French is a national organization founded by parents who wanted their children to have the opportunity to become bilingual. Consider becoming a member of the local CPF chapter; the membership fee has recently been waived! CPF sponsors events in our schools, and offers online classes, webinars and summer enrichment programs. In many Canadian cities, CPF offers activities to promote French. Prior to Covid, in person language classes were offered to parents. At this point there are language classes available online.

<https://sk.cpf.ca/en>

Association des Parents Fransaskois was founded by French-speaking families to support francophone identity. They welcome all families (French speaking or not) and provide many opportunities to experience French in Saskatoon. For an annual membership fee of \$5, you have access to a resource library of books, games, music and education kits through the Early Childhood Educational Resource Centre (CRÉPE). As well, they offer weekly activities for families and children. They support French speaking daycares in Saskatchewan and can help you find one if this is something you would consider for your child. If you don't speak French, APF is happy to answer your questions in English.

306.653.7444, info@apfsk.ca

Federation des Francophones de Saskatoon

is an organization dedicated to facilitating the gathering of the Francophone community in Saskatoon and promoting Francophone cultural activities. Events are organized year round to provide a cultural and social environment in French and are open to all members of the community. Le Relais community hall is located at 103-308 4th Avenue North. The website, as well as their emailed newsletter, will keep you updated on upcoming activities. Events such as Apéro-franco at Le Relais two Friday evenings each month are open to all to come and socialize with drinks and food while speaking French. Past events have included music evenings, improv, and quiz nights. Subscribe to their online newsletter for monthly information on upcoming events such as Winter Carnival, St-Jean Baptiste Day, the French Pavillion at Folkfest and more!

<https://www.francoasaskatoon.ca/en>

La Troupe du Jour is a non-profit professional theatre organization that presents several productions annually in French. A children's theatre school (ages 6 - 14) operates classes on Saturday mornings from October to June, providing the opportunity for children to develop their acting skills while speaking French.

<https://www.latroupedujour.ca>

Cinergie is an annual francophone film festival during May at the Roxy Theatre on 20th Street West. The four-day film festival celebrates Fransaskois, Franco-Canadian and Francophone cinema from around the world. Typically, there are 13 film screenings, 12 feature length movies, 30 short films, a two-hour special short film program, bilingual discussions with filmmakers, networking evenings, francophone tasting buffet and live music. Films include English subtitles. Schools are invited to attend a daytime screening during school hours and workshops are offered for students.

<https://www.festivalcinergie.ca>

Camp Voyageur - Each summer traveling team presents a summer day-camp in Saskatoon (as well as in other locations in Saskatchewan) for children ages 6 - 12. The camp is 100 per cent in French so if this is a challenge your child is willing to take on, spending a week or two speaking French is an amazing experience!

<https://campvoyageursk.com/en>

Festival Fransaskois is an annual summer event in July at Pike Lake. Spend the weekend camping, or drive out for the day. Activities, food and music are all in French!

<https://www.festivalfransaskois.com/en>



Weekly Family Challenges for the School Year

Here are 40 weekly activities to do with your child to foster independence, communication and skill development. There is one activity to focus on for each week of the month.

September

- Support your child in putting on their shoes independently.
- Visit a branch of the public library and get library cards for each member of the family.
- Support your child in writing their name with an uppercase letter to begin followed by lowercase letters. (For example: Alexandra)
- Go for a walk in your neighbourhood.

October

- Support your child in learning how to put on a jacket with a zipper and zip it up independently.
- Read a story before bed.
- Support your child in learning how to use scissors.
- Guide your child in making a card for a family member or friend, and either give it to them or mail it.

November

- Support your child in learning how to put on mittens or gloves independently.
- Support your child in taking out their homework each evening and putting it in their school bag right after finishing.
- Write out an important phone number

(home or cell phone), and put it on your fridge. Have your child read the numbers in French and English each day until they have it memorized.

- Arrange to get your child together with a classmate. You could meet up at the library, go for a walk, have hot chocolate, or meet at a playground.

December

- Support your child in putting on their ski pants independently.
- Go for a drive to look at Christmas lights in your neighbourhood.
- Do a kind deed with your child.
- Make snowflakes using coffee filters. The paper is very thin, even when folded in quarters or eighths and is a great way to practice making snips with scissors.

January

- Play a board game with your child.
- Go for a walk in the dark and notice the stars.
- Get a paper calendar for the new year and write in items that affect your child: hot lunch days at school, school library book exchange days, parent-teacher conferences, field trips, family birthdays, etc. Teach your child to use the calendar.
- Visit the Remai Modern Art Museum. (free for under 18, by donation for adults)

February

- Borrow books about animals from the public library.
- Buy alphabet and number fridge magnets for your child.
- Have your child help you make a grocery shopping list. Have them be in charge of the list when you go shopping and assist you at the store.
- Make homemade Valentine cards with markers and coloured paper.

March

- Learn some nursery rhymes.
- Bake or cook from a recipe with your child. Show them how to measure, and read the directions to them. Support them as they learn to stir and pour.
- Teach your child to say their birthdate.
- Participate in the annual Meewasin Pelican Watch contest to guess the arrival date of the pelicans on the Saskatchewan River. <https://meewasin.com/pelicanwatch>

April

- Play with playdough with your child.
- Go for a walk on the Meewasin Trail along the Saskatchewan River and look for signs of spring.
- Teach your child to write their last name.
- Invite one of your child's classmates over to play.

May

- Support your child in assisting with daily unpacking of their lunch bag.
- Plant some beans together and enjoy watching them grow. The dollar store has everything you need.
- Visit a library branch that you don't usually visit.
- Check the weather forecast for the following day and have your child decide what clothing is appropriate for the weather.

June

- Visit a pet store and look at the animals.
- Have your child help you pack their lunch for school.
- Sign up for the Summer Reading Program at the public library.
- Go for ice cream, and talk about what your favourite flavour is and why.



Wondering how to support your child's learning? We have some short videos for that!

Video 1:
Introduction to literacy



Video 2:
Counting words in a sentence



Video 3: Rhyming



Video 4:
Blending and segmenting syllables



Video 5:
Identifying the first sounds in words



Video 6:
Identifying the last sound in words



Video 7:
Blending and segmenting sounds in words



Video 8:
Holding a pencil



Video 9:
Learning to use scissors



Video 10:
Oral language and reading to your child



Video 11:
Learning about letters





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