

FRENCH IMMERSION FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM FAQ

DO WE HAVE TO SPEAK French at home to register our child for the French Immersion Full-Day Kindergarten Program?

No, it is not a requirement that families speak French at home. All students, regardless of the language spoken at home, are welcome to enrol for the program. Remember that you do not need any special skills to help your child learn French. Just spending time with your child and talking about what he or she is thinking or learning about will make a difference.

WILL MY CHILD BE BEHIND in English if he or she is enrolled in the French Immersion program?

While there are certain lags in English language skills for the first few years of the program, the children in French Immersion catch up to their peers quickly once English is introduced, and often demonstrate enhanced English language skills by Grade 6. Below is a breakdown of the French language instruction in our French Immersion programs:

Grade	% of French Language Instruction
Kindergarten Year 1	100%
Kindergarten Year 2	100%
Grade 1	100%
Grade 2-3	84%
Grade 4-5	60%
Grade 6-8	50%

WE ARE NOT SURE IF our child will be happy in the French Immersion program. If we enrol our child in French Immersion and find out down the road that it is not for them, can we switch to English?

Yes. New Prospect PS and Valleyview PS are dual-track schools. This means they offer both French and English instruction, and parents are able to select the language of instruction for their child. Research shows that French Immersion is suitable for a wide range of learners, and the school will support you and your child every step of the way.

I'VE ALREADY REGISTERED MY CHILD at a different school. Can I still make the switch over to the French Immersion Full-Day Kindergarten Program at New Prospect PS or Valleyview PS?

Absolutely! While Kindergarten Registration Week is held during the first week of March this year for the upcoming school year, we accept registrations all year long. For those families who have already registered in a KPDSB school, simply contact New Prospect Public School in Dryden at 223-4713, or Valleyview Public School in Kenora at 548-4205, and let them know which school you registered at, and we will take care of the paperwork for you.

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I LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE attendance boundary for the school offering the French Immersion program I would like to enroll my child. Would my child qualify for school bus transportation to and from the program?

Because the French Immersion programs at New Prospect Public School and Valleyview Public School are the only French Immersion programs offered at public schools in Dryden and Kenora, the programs' attendance boundaries are the entire region the schools are located in. Therefore, any child that is currently being bused, or would be in the fall, to an English program at an area school would be eligible for school bus transportation as long as distance criteria are met. For more information, please call the Northwestern Ontario Student Services Consortium at 223-1256.

I MISSED THE FRENCH IMMERSION registration events in my community. Can I still get information about the program and register my child?

Yes! Staff in our individual schools would be happy to talk to you about our French Immersion programs. They can give you and your child a tour of the school, introduce you to our Kindergarten teams, take you to the Kindergarten classrooms, and much more. Contact either New Prospect Public School in Dryden at 223-4713, or Valleyview Public School in Kenora at 548-4205 to schedule a visit to the school or to find out more. Please note that during the COVID-19 pandemic, some interactions may have to be done virtually as per public health direction.

WILL MY CHILD LEARN THE same things as students in English classes?

Yes. The Ontario curriculum is the same. The only difference is the language of instruction.

WHAT CAN I DO TO help my child to succeed in French Immersion?

There are many ways parents/families can support a child in French Immersion (or any other program). Working alongside your child's school and being involved in their education, even if it's just asking questions about their time at school each day, will show your child that you value their education and that it is important to you. Reading regularly to your child in whichever language is spoken at home, or simply just talking to your child about new experiences, will enhance your child's vocabulary, and his/her confidence will grow.

Remember that if a child is experiencing difficulty in a particular subject area, the confusion often lies with the concept, not the language, and that our school is there to support you and your child through any difficulties you may encounter.

PLEASE CONTACT:

New Prospect Public School in Dryden at 223-4713 or Valleyview Public School in Kenora at 548-4205 for more information and to register for the French Immersion Full-Day Kindergarten Program!

Both Valleyview Public School and New Prospect Public School are accepting registrations for their French Immersion programs for students going into Grades 1-6 for the fall of 2021.