

## Core French (K-3)

The recognized starting point for Core French is Grade 4; however, schools may offer Core French from Grade 1 to Grade 3. The Department of Education will support school-initiated primary Core French programs that meet specific criteria. These criteria have been adopted to encourage schools and school districts to implement well-articulated French programs. Schools seeking departmental support for primary Core French should submit their proposals to the Core French Program Development Specialist at the Department of Education. Proposals should be received by April 30 to allow processing for the new school year.

Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria.

*Personnel* - Teachers should have the following qualifications and experience or their equivalent:

- 1 Education - a degree with specialization in primary or elementary education.
- 2 Proficiency in French - eight semester courses in French and a recognized six-week course at a Francophone institution.
- 3 Teaching French as a Second Language - one course in the theory and methods of the primary or elementary grades.
- 4 Teaching experience - two years minimum, preferably in the primary grades.

*Purpose* - Schools should implement primary Core French with the intention of preparing students for more intensive French programs, such as Expanded Core French or Late Immersion.

*Articulation* - Schools should plan an instructional sequence for Grades 1-6 that provides for the systematic development and use of language skills and the development of linguistic knowledge.

*Scheduling* - In Grades 1-3, children should have a daily French period of at least twenty minutes. The general timetable of each class should accompany a proposal.

The optional Primary Core French Program promotes listening comprehension, encourages oral production, fosters positive attitudes towards learning French, and introduces French culture.

Content is drawn from the children's world, their knowledge of themselves and their experience of their immediate surroundings. Specific topics include clothing, numbers, colours, animals, seasons, sports, holidays, and birthdays.

The topics are presented directly in French and provide the context for practice of the language. The Program includes a variety of activities, ranging from those primarily linguistic (comprehension, pronunciation, and repetition) to those involving reinforcement and use of French (singing, games, and

colouring). The class should progress from a teacher-directed presentation of new content to student-centred practice and use.