

How to Help Your Child Succeed in French

As part of the APA Speaker Series, Kristina Laperle (Parent Co-chair of the TDSB's French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) provided an insightful discussion on "**How to Help Your Child Succeed in French**" in October 2013. This discussion included 1) recommendations to parents on how to provide help; 2) helpful homework tips; and 3) where to find online French resources.

Some of the key recommendations included:

- Read with your child in your first language everyday this will help to develop the reading skills in French;
- If you don't speak French have your child teach you French words;
- Be enthusiastic about speaking and learning French when discussing at home (even if you don't speak French);
- Follow along the curriculum by on the TDSB website. The curriculum for the English stream is the same as the French immersion stream;
- Increase your child's exposure to French, this can be done by watching French TV and DVDs, listening to French radio and looking into French camps;
- Provide appropriate homework encouragement and support without doing their homework; and
- Teachers know most parents don't speak French and assign homework that can be done independently.

A helpful list of French online resources was discussed and include:

Canadian Parents for French: www.cpf.ca. Check out a comprehensive list of online French resources on their website under the tabs "**Resources for Parents**", "**Homework Help for Parents**", "**Online French Resources**". Many more helpful tools can also be found on CPF website.

Open Culture: www.openculture.com/freelanguagelessons

FSL Homework Toolbox: <http://www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca>

French as a Second Language Activities with M. Renaud - <http://www.fslactivities.ca>

Finally every student from Grade 1 onwards were given a "TDSB Virtual Library Learnmark" (looks like a large bookmark) in September containing a list of useful digital resources including:

ONLINE DATABASES (Great for all subject areas!)

- ✓ OERB (Ontario Educational Resource Bank)

Search tips:

- Use "Browse by Curriculum", select "grade" and "subject".
- Do NOT select by "strand" or "French language". This greatly limits options
- Kids love "Interactive Learning" under "Resource Filter Types" on the left side panel.

Some additional resources can also be found on the TDSB website under the **French as a Second Language Advisory Committee** tab, specifically under the headings “Resources” and “Web Links” - <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac>.

If you are interested in getting involved with the FSLAC all parents/caregivers and students are invited to attend the monthly meetings. The next meeting is January 9, 2014 at the TDSB offices at 5050 Yonge Street at 7pm in Committee Room A or you can join the meeting by teleconference. The meeting agenda and teleconference numbers are available at - <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac>.

If you have any questions you can contact the Kristina Laperle (the FSLAC Co-chair) at: fslactoronto@gmail.com or Erin Needra (FSLAC coordinator): esneedra@hotmail.com. A full copy of the presentation “French...helping your child succeed” is attached.