

French Immersion Kindergarten Program FAQ **2015-2016 School Year – New Prospect Public School**

Do we have to speak French at home to register our child for the French Immersion Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program (FDELKP)?

No, it is not a requirement that families speak French at home. All students, regardless of the language spoken at home, are welcome to register for the program. Remember that you don't 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.

We are not sure if our child will be happy in the French Immersion program. If we enroll our child in French Immersion and find out down the road that it's not for them, can we switch to an English FDELKP?

Yes. New Prospect PS will be a dual-track school, meaning it offers both French and English instruction and students would be able to choose from both options, even if they start in a different class or program. 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.

Will my child be behind in English if he or she takes 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 (JK/SK) - Grade 1 | 100% |
| Grades 2-3 | 84% |
| Grade 4-5 | 60% |
| Grade 7-8 | 50% |

I've already registered my child at a different school for the fall of 2015. Can I still make the switch over the French Immersion FDELKP at New Prospect?

Yes. While Kindergarten Registration Week is held at the end of January each year for the following fall, we accept registrations all year long. For those families who have already registered in a KPDSB school, simply contact New Prospect at 223-4713, let them know which school you registered at, and we will take care of the paperwork for you.

WWW.KPDSB.ON.CA

All stakeholders create a culture of learning so that students come first.

***The French Immersion FDELKP is contingent on enrolment*

Will my child learn the same things as students in English classes?

Yes. The Ontario French Immersion curriculum is the same as the English language curriculum except that the language delivery is French.

I live outside of the New Prospect PS attendance boundary. Would my child qualify for school bus transportation to and from the program?

Because the French Immersion program at New Prospect Public School is the only French Immersion program offered at a Dryden area public school, the programs attendance boundary is the entire region. 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 is met. For more information, please call the Northwestern Ontario Student Services Consortium at 223-1256.

***For families who have questions about school bus transportation for siblings of students who would be enrolling in the French Immersion program, please contact Sheena Valley at 223-5311 ext. 247*

I missed the French Immersion registration night at New Prospect Public School. Can I still get information about the program and register my child?

Yes! The school would be happy to talk to you about the new French Immersion program. They can give you and your child a tour of the school, introduce you to the Kindergarten team, take you down to the Kindergarten classrooms, and much more. Contact them today at 223-4713.

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 at 223-4713 for more information and to register for the French Immersion FDELKP for September 2015!

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