

French Immersion Kindergarten Program FAQ

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 and Valleyview PS are dual-track schools, meaning they offer 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. Can I still make the switch over the French Immersion FDELKP at New Prospect or Valleyview?

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 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.

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 attendance boundary for the school offering the French Immersion program I would like to enroll my child in. 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 is 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! Our 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 down 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.

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 FDELKP!

*****Valleyview Public School is also accepting registrations for their French Immersion Program for students going into Grades 1-3 for the fall of 2016. New Prospect Public School is also accepting registrations for Grade 1 for the fall of 2016.***

WWW.KPDSB.ON.CA

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

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