

# Growing Up Learning French

## From Birth to 24 Months



### How to help your very young child learn and speak French at home

The more your child is exposed to French every day, the better he or she will learn the language. If you don't speak French, here's what you can do:

#### From birth to 12 months

- Encourage your spouse to make a habit of speaking French to your child every day (your spouse could describe what he or she is doing, hum songs, name surrounding objects, or have your child listen to songs).
  - Your child will learn the 36 sounds of French and distinguish them from English sounds.
  - Your child will incorporate these sounds into his or her babbling, and exercise the speaking muscles used to pronounce French sounds.

#### From 12 to 24 months

- Introduce books (in plastic, in cloth, with flaps) in both languages.
- Ask your child to point to or find objects, and describe what you do, in the same way that your Francophone spouse does.
  - To enrich the vocabulary that is understood.
  - To help distinguish between French and English words.
  - To help eliminate mixing languages.

#### Promote French

- Be positive towards French.
  - To reassure your child that French is important and relevant.
- Don't worry that your child will not be fluent in English if you promote French at home. Your child will become fluent in English due to the surrounding English environment.



For more information, or to receive more copies of this document (or other documents in this series), please contact the Association des parents francosaskois | [www.parentsfranosaskois.ca](http://www.parentsfranosaskois.ca)  
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