

Biography:

Anabelle Bouchard is from Moonbeam, Ontario. She recently graduated from the Speech-Language Pathology program in June 2019 and is now in her first year as a master student at Laurentian University. Her research interests are bilingualism and language in a minority context. She is currently doing research in the language of use in French schools in a minority context.

Research:

The French language is an example of a minority context in Canada (except for Quebec). This is the case for the North Bay region, where English is mostly spoken between individuals and even in French-language schools. Since the majority of children entering kindergarten are English-speaking, it is important to develop techniques that will help children attending these schools speak more French. The objective of this study is to increase the use of French by children. Different approaches will be taken to educate teachers, parents and children about the acquisition of a second language and the importance of using it in order to make use of it. This study will observe the language behaviors of kindergarten children from French-language schools including two classes from two different schools. A robust vocabulary teaching (intervention) will take place in one of the classes, and no intervention will take place in the other class to observe if the techniques undertaken by the teacher influence the language behavior of children after a few months. The results of this study will allow us to determine the teaching techniques that are effective in making French the language of use in between children.