

Biography:

Anabelle Bouchard is from Moonbeam, Ontario. She graduated from the Speech-Language Pathology program in June 2019 and is now in her second and last 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. In the form of an action research, the educators as well as the researchers met several times to determine the stages and the goals of the project. Different approaches have been 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. A robust vocabulary teaching took place in classrooms to introduce new vocabulary and attempt to increase the use of French in the classroom. A few interviews took place between the researcher and the educators in order to analyze how their mindset has changed in relation to the acquisition of a minority language. They reported that they felt more comfortable with the awareness of second language acquisition and with the different techniques that can now be used at any time of the day. 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.