

Tips on how to increase exposure to the French language using family time and technology – pre-teen/teens

- 1) Make a plan on how you will try to increase exposure and try to stick to it. Exposure can be both what the child hears and what the child produces. It's easier to find activities where the child is listening to the French language, but we need to make sure that the child is also USING the French language on a daily basis.
- 2) Download French application for tablets or other handheld device to provide more exposure. Here are a few examples to get you started:



« Scrabble GO – Jeu de mots » is a good way to practice spelling in French and socialise with family or friends.



“Mon petit bac” is a word game where you have to find words from different categories starting by a specific letter. You can also challenge your friends.



“1jour1actu, l'info du jour” is an app that shares a short video every day explaining an event or a news item.



“Give Me Five by Phosphore” shares 5 news of the day every night at 5:05 that can be read under 5 minutes.



“BDnF” is an app that lets you create your own stories, in the form of a comic book.



“4 images 1 mot” is an app that shows 4 pictures and you need to find the French word that matches with all.



“Chatbooks” is a great app to encourage your child to create photo albums and have him or her add captions in French (there are many apps available for this purpose) .



Kids love to make their own short films. The “iMovie” App is one example of a movie editing App that makes movie creations easy and enjoyable. Your kids can add captions and recordings in French! Consider sharing these with French family members or friends to brighten their day.

3) Listen to French Podcasts.



“Les jeunes sages” is a French podcast from Radio-Canada featuring kids from 7 to 15 years old asking ethical questions to well-known public personalities.



“Entre” is a French podcast about the delicate transition from childhood to adolescence.



“Vie d’ados” is a French podcast that talks about everything teenager related. This podcast can be found [here](#).



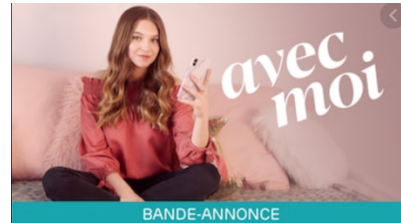
“Pas de panique” is a French podcast available on ici.radio-canada.ca. This podcast has the mission to approach seriously and objectively subjects which generated intense feelings of fear.

4) Watch television in French.

- a. Many movies or TV shows on Netflix can be watched in French
- b. Here are a few examples of TV shows in French for teenagers on ici.tou.tv



“L’effet secondaire” is a French series about high school kids.



“Avec moi” is a 16 years old youtuber who is trying to get through the difficult teenage years.



“C’est quoi l’trip?” talks about current trends and includes interviews with guests.



“Game(R)” features a teenage girl who will soon be gaming professionally.

5) Invite your friends to a Zoom meeting and play games in French

- a. You can play “Pictionary” with your friends in French during a Zoom meeting
 - i. Here is a [link](#) for the instructions:
- b. “Pictionary” can also be played online against random people or your friends
 - i. Here is a [link](#) for the instructions
- c. You can play “Hangman” with your friends in French during a Zoom meeting
 - i. Here is a [link](#) for the instructions

6) Listen to these 4 episodes of The Parlé Podcast with your children to increase the use of French vocabulary. You can adapt the activities according to your child’s age and interests. You can also encourage your child to find rich vocabulary words in various activities.



- a) [Robust Vocabulary Instruction in French for Anglophone Parents](#)
- b) [Robust Vocabulary Instruction for Anglophone Parents: Banana and Chocolate Chip Muffins with Sarah and Julianne](#)

- c) [Robust Vocabulary Instruction in French for Anglophone Parents: Raft challenge with Sarah and Julianne](#)
- d) [Robust Vocabulary Instruction in French for Anglophone Parents: Chin faces with Sarah and Julianne](#)

- 7) Listen to Audio books in French. Audible, Inc. is a great resource.
http://www.audible.com/t1/30trial_at?source_code=PDTGBPD060314004R

There are over 406 French kids' audio books on this website. This way, even if you don't feel comfortable reading to your child in French, you can provide exposure by downloading French audiobooks. Audible, Inc has a free application for hand held devices (Apple, Android, Kindle, Windows Phone). However, you need to pay a monthly fee to download audiobooks (approximately 15\$/month). You can sign-in to your Audible account using your Amazon username and password. These audio books can even be played in your car via Bluetooth for the entire family to hear!

- 8) You can also listen to a book in French while you follow along in English. The following website: Global Storybooks portal has hundreds of books available in various languages for free. <https://storybookscanada.ca/stories/fr/> You can select level 4 or level 5 books for this age group.

- 9) Here are a few tips for bilingual families



Explain the importance of the heritage language in your home.



Make a plan and stick to it.



Have resources available in the heritage language: books, music, TV shows, movies. Set your electronic tablet's language (ex. iPad) to the target language.



Introduce culture in your life: plays, festivals, food, holidays, travel, etc.



Talk with grandparents/family who speak the target language as much as possible (ex. Skype, Facetime, Zoom, messaging).



Introduce new vocabulary in the target language by having a word of the week (or check out The Parlé Podcast episodes for ideas).

- 10) For more information on the acquisition of the French language:
<https://www.theparlepodcast.com/index.html>
- 11) Try to make sure that your child is spending 40 to 60 % of his or her waking hours in French. This is not easy in an English dominant community. See the following [form](#) to see what your percentages look like in both languages.
- 12) Last but not least, HAVE FUN finding creative ways to increase your child's exposure to the French language.

© Chantal Mayer-Crittenden, 2020