

Franc depart

STRONG START PROGRAM
FOR FRANCOPHONE FAMILIES



THE PROGRAM

The *Franc départ* (Strong Start) program is a Ministry of Education initiative implemented by the CSF (Francophone education authority) and the FPFCB (Francophone Parents Federation of BC). Its mission is to invite Francophone children* from birth to age five, accompanied by their adult parent or caregiver, to participate in a variety of French-language activities at the *Franc départ* location, **at no cost** to participants.

An early childhood education specialist oversees the activities. The educator's role is to offer a program in French that is designed to encourage the child's overall development, while providing support for parents in their role as prime educators.

The ideals of the Franc départ program promote:

- ★ Play, by which the parent and child can explore the world together and learn more about one another;
- ★ Recognition of the parent as prime educator of his or her child;
- ★ Repeated opportunities to experience French, knowing that these opportunities favour the learning of the French language;
- ★ The unique contribution of each family to enriching the program.

* Francophone child: a child from a family in which at least one parent is French-speaking.

THE ACTIVITIES

Families attending *Franc départ* can participate in the following activities:

Free Play Time

During each *Franc départ* session, the parents and children have an opportunity to discover a wide variety of educational games and toys.

Guided Activity

A special activity is planned by the educator for the families, with the purpose of introducing children to group learning.

Snack Time

A nutritional snack is served daily, encouraging the development of healthy lifestyle choices in children.

The Circle

A time for the youngsters and adults to come together to sing, dance, hear and tell stories, or play games.



Franc départ helps families grow by:

- ★ Providing a lively, stimulating Francophone environment;
- ★ Giving the children and adults a chance to break out of isolation and build a social network;
- ★ Creating opportunities for parents and children to familiarize themselves with the school environment, and to get to know the school staff;
- ★ Facilitating the child's integration into kindergarten through activities designed to encourage early literacy;
- ★ Informing parents about the French-language resources and services available in the community.

REGISTRATION

Since the *Franc départ* program is voluntary, families are free to choose what mornings to attend and select the arrival and departure times that suit them best. Registration is required however. Please talk to the educator on-site for more information.

FRANC DÉPART VIDEO

To view a brief video showing *Franc départ* in action, visit our website, www.fpfcf.bc.ca and click on the *Franc départ* link.



FRANC DÉPART IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- **CAMPBELL RIVER**
École Mer-et-montagne
1102 South Alder Street
Tel. 778-418-1820
francdepart_meremontagne@csf.bc.ca
Monday and Friday, 8:45 AM – 11:45 AM
- **DELTA**
École du Bois-joli
785 49th Street
Tel. 604-948-2385
francdepart_boisjoli@csf.bc.ca
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 AM - Noon
- **NELSON**
École des Sentiers-alpins
2780 Hwy 3A
francdepart_sentiersalpins@csf.bc.ca
Tel. 250-509-0007
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 AM - Noon
- **PENTICTON**
École Entre-lacs
1077 Nelson Avenue
Tel. 250-770-7691
francdepart_entrelacs@csf.bc.ca
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 AM - Noon
- **PORT COQUITLAM**
École des Pionniers-de-Maillardville
3550 Wellington Street
Tel. 778-284-0922
francdepart_pionniers@csf.bc.ca
Monday to Friday, 9 AM – Noon
- **VANCOUVER**
École Anne-Hébert
7051 Killarney Street
Tel. 778-238-9477
francdepart_annehebert@csf.bc.ca
Monday to Friday, 9 AM – Noon