

# Francisation : Common Questions

## Francisation Programming

**Why is Francisation funding provided to Francophone school authorities for children who are as young as 3 years 6 months of age on September 1?**

In a predominantly English milieu, young children and their families may need extra support to acquire proficiency in the French language. Providing Francisation funding and programming for children as young as 3 years 6 months of age, who are at a rapid stage of language growth, supports and enhances their developing language proficiency in the context of their family and community. Francisation funding also provides opportunities to revitalize cultural identity and optimize participation as learners in Francophone educational settings.

Francisation Funding, in addition to Early Childhood Services (ECS) Base Instruction funding, is available for children as young as 3 years 6 months of age who: come from homes in which the primary spoken language is not French, or speak minimal French or are non-French speaking.



## How is a child's language proficiency determined?

The child's language proficiency in French is initially determined by a certificated teacher. Assessment can include an interview with the parents and assessment of the child's oral language through culturally relevant picture prompts or objects, age-appropriate questions, or other common assessments. Assessment determines Francisation funding and programming needs. Documentation must be on file to indicate the child's French language proficiency at onset and following a year of programming.

Francophone school authorities may seek assistance in identifying children who are eligible for the funding through community organizations that serve children and families as well as community agencies and other groups that support new members and immigrants of the community. In collaboration with Francophone school authorities, Alberta Education has developed [La francisation: l'affaire de tout le monde](#), a comprehensive resource to assist educators in providing appropriate programming in Francisation for children and students in Francophone schools.

### Who is responsible for conducting the program?

Programming must be under the direction of a certificated teacher. Programming may be delivered directly by a certificated teacher in a classroom setting, or supervised by a certificated teacher who works closely with program staff at daycares or pre-schools to create language-rich environments, develop program plans and use instructional and assessment strategies that meet the language learning needs of the children. If programming is provided off-site under teacher supervision, a contractual agreement is recommended.

### What Francisation programming is appropriate for children prior to the kindergarten year?

Participation in all ECS programming, including Francisation programming, for children prior to grade one or 6 years of age is not mandatory in Alberta. Prior to Grade 1, parents may choose to have their child participate in an ECS program. It is recommended to obtain the parents' informed consent before providing programming for Francisation.

Optimal programming for Francisation in a supportive and welcoming learning environment provides opportunities for the child to gain confidence in French language skills through a variety of language-rich activities, play experiences and interaction with French speaking peers. Programming should be developmentally appropriate, child-focused and engage families and communities. The focus is not on academic readiness skills.

A successful program recognizes the role family, community and culture play in language development.

The involvement of all partners is a key element in terms of language modeling and nurturing a sense of belonging: all members are important in the learning community and each should feel their diverse identities are honoured and valued. Programming should also support literacy in the family's first language.