



Ici on parle français – PD grants for FSL teachers

Increasing engagement in FSL literacy with experiential activities

Team Members:

Jacinthe Beyea and Amy Callan

School District: Upper Canada District School Board



What We Did

We learned new strategies and explored new resources to pair engaging and experiential activities with FSL literacy. We learned about some common themes and some differences in the AIM Language approach and the science of reading approach. We sought out, learned about and explored some FSL related resources that were more experiential. We learned about and tried out new games with our classes. We used AIM resources to learn about oral and written story extension and story re-telling. (Due to an unexpected leave by one of our team we were more limited in developing some parts of the project than expected. For example, there was less engagement with the garden than expected due to the timing of the leave and the winter approval for the project start. We also used less of our budget than anticipated for this reason.)



What We Learned

1. Greater familiarity with story extensions and retellings for teaching oral communication and related to literacy
2. Greater knowledge of games for spontaneous use of oral communication in FSL
3. New pedagogical knowledge related to both AIM and experiential and season-based learning
4. More confidence in using new and engaging techniques to teach FSL



How We Shared Our Learning With Others

We met and discussed our learning together. We shared what we learned with other staff members informally. We instituted a reading and learning activity buddies' program between primary and junior students. We shared extended French learning opportunities in science with students through buddy activities (often linked to the natural world, literacy and the changing seasons).

Links to Our Work

Due to the oral focus of much of our project and the challenges posed by the unexpected leave, we cannot present links at this time. But the experiences we and the students had with the early stages of the project were very positive. Students responded well to the initiation of partnering cross grade literacy activities and the introduction of the story extensions concepts. The FSL games encouraged participation and active and engaged leaning. We as teachers gained valuable knowledge and skills from our experience with the project and look forward to developing them even more in the future using some of the knowledge and resources gained from the project.

Any Next Steps We Have To Continue Our Learning

We will continue to learn more about story extensions and retellings and develop our skills in teaching them using the exemplars we now have. We will continue to build our skill in the use of FSL games using the AIM games books we each have. We will continue to build on our experiences in cross grade literacy activities. We look forward to doing more FSL activities involving the garden in future years.