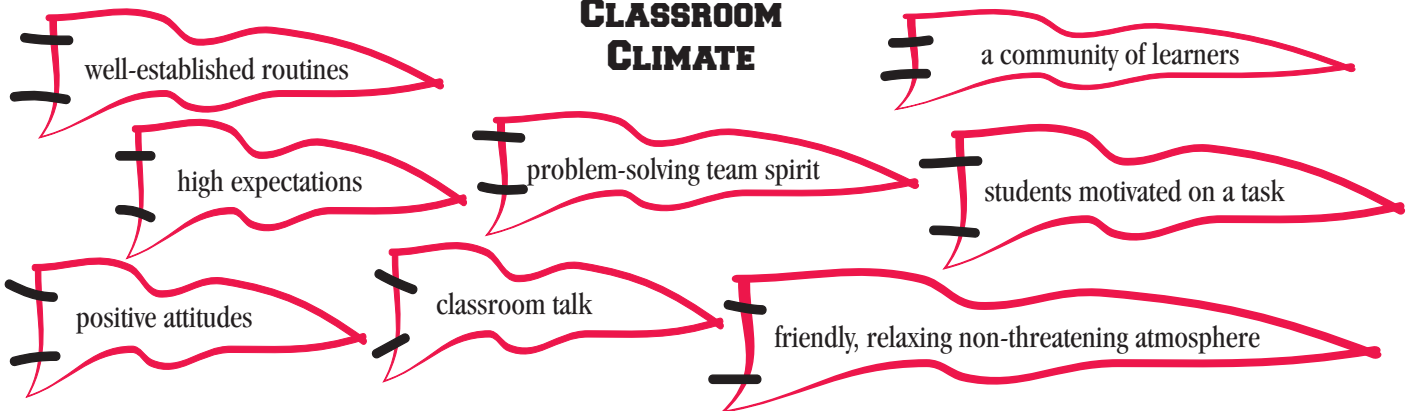


# WHAT MIGHT YOU EXPECT TO SEE IN AN ENGLISH LA - IMMERSION CLASS?

## CLASSROOM CLIMATE



## GROUPINGS

- independent activities
- whole-class instruction
- teacher-directed groups
- self-directed groups
- learning groups with another class
- small co-operative groups
- peer partners
- centre activities

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- students' stories or essays and art on display
- interactive bulletin boards where students are challenged to solve a problem or ask questions
- computers that students use frequently
- a variety of books, newspapers and magazines
- learning centres
- displays in hallways

## GOING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

- writers and speakers who come into the classroom
- field trips to theatres, libraries galleries, museums

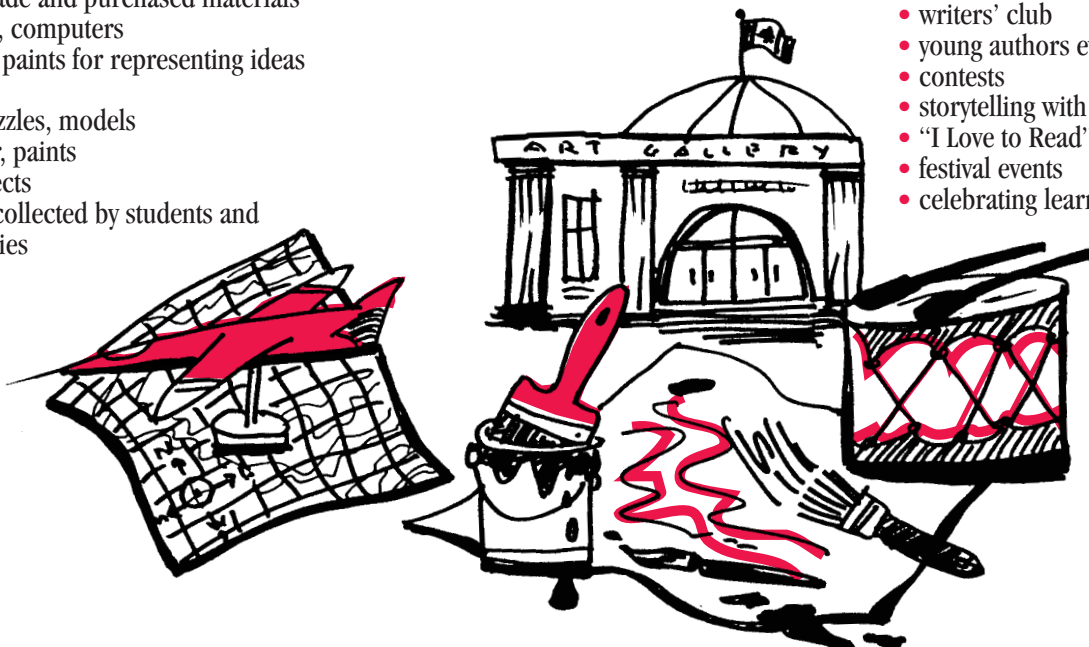
## LEARNING MATERIALS

- books, newspapers, magazines
- organized, accessible storage
- teacher-made and purchased materials
- tapes, CDs, computers
- paper and paints for representing ideas
- letter tiles
- games, puzzles, models
- clay, paper, paints
- found objects
- materials collected by students and their families

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- drama nights
- poetry reading
- media club
- writers' club
- young authors events
- contests
- storytelling with an Aboriginal Elder
- "I Love to Read" celebration
- festival events
- celebrating learning with parents

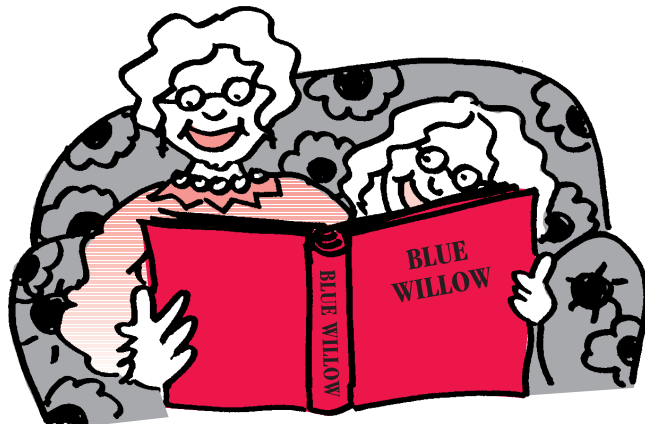


# HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD IN SCHOOL?

Language learning is  
a shared responsibility.

1. Take time to read with your child every day. Just 15 minutes a day will make a world of difference to how well your child does in language arts.
2. Make time to talk about what matters to your child. Talk at meal time to share ideas and experiences. Follow up on his/her interests.
3. Show you care about your child's school success. Praise effort and persistence in homework and projects.
4. Communicate with the school with notes, phone calls and visits. Celebrate successes!
5. Make sure your child has access to pencils, paper, markers and a quiet place. Encourage creativity in drawings, stories, experiments and research.
6. Help your child develop healthy routines and habits. Good nutrition, enough sleep, plenty of fresh air and exercise help your child develop a healthy body and an alert mind.
7. Explore language learning in your community. Use your library card to access books and videos. See a play. Visit an art gallery or a museum. Find the treasures in your community.
8. Tame the TV. Shut the TV off for some time every day, so the whole family can have some quiet time to think, read and talk.
9. Help your child learn to manage time and develop time lines. Keep a family calendar for everyone's big events. Help Middle Years and Senior Years students use their daytimer or agenda book.
10. Have fun with literacy learning. Show how you enjoy using your literacy skills and strategies to explore the world every day. Follow a recipe together. Read a "how to" manual to learn a new craft or skill.

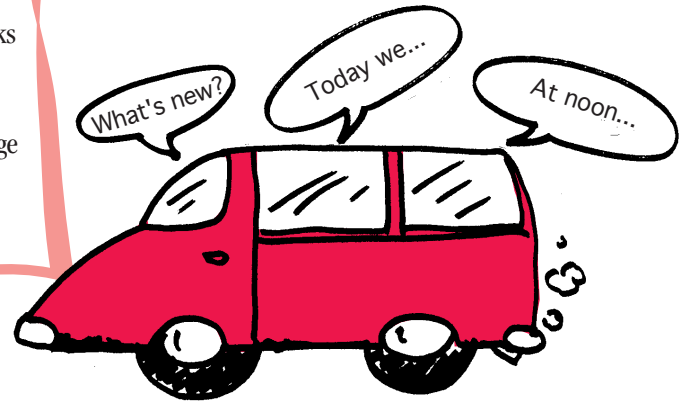
Literacy is lifelong language learning!



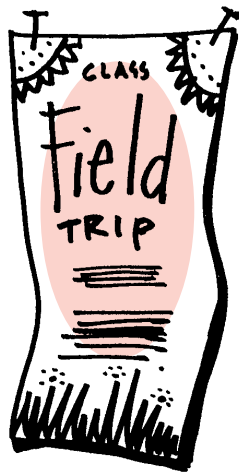
# ENGLISH IS EVERYWHERE

As your child's first teacher of language, you are already experienced in using daily experiences to help your child develop language skills. Talking at meals, reading daily, sharing and discussing favourite books or TV shows, making lists and drawing pictures are all good ways to develop language skills.

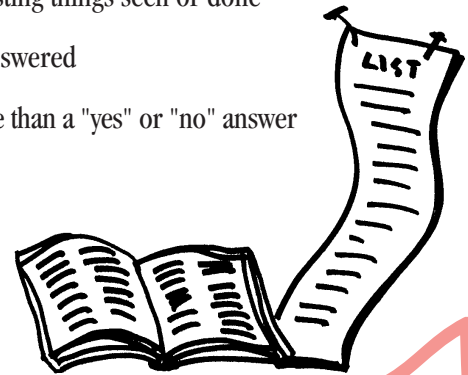
As a parent, you make a difference to your child's development, knowledge and skill in language arts. Everyday activities help develop ability and confidence in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and representing.



- table and carpool talk
  - about activities and events of the day
  - about books, news, trips and games
  - about information in newspapers, magazines and on the Internet
  - about school excursions



- make a list (together) of the most interesting things seen or done
- make a list of questions needing to be answered
- ask and answer questions calling for more than a "yes" or "no" answer
- express thoughts and feelings
- read aloud from time to time
- substitute talk for radio or TV



You can help your child by letting him know how well you expect him to do in language arts. Be reasonable. Make sure your child knows you believe in him. Be positive. Tell him and others when he does something well or better than before. Also let your child know that mistakes are part of learning, an opportunity to learn and try again.

Language learning involves risk taking. Making errors is a part of the process. Successful learners are not afraid to take risks and sometimes make mistakes.

Mistakes in grammar, spelling and punctuation are normal in the first drafts of work when your child is beginning to think on paper. Don't focus on these until the composition has been revised and polished. Help your child learn to edit and revise work.



### STORY TIME

listen to stories together  
predict what will happen next  
retell stories to get a sense of the story  
and order of events

### PLAYTIME

use detail to describe things (a red plaid shirt, the smallest ball, jumping like a deer, walk quickly)  
sing songs (another way to use words)  
repeat new words, make up new words, stories, rhymes, riddles and skits  
keep old clothes for dress-up time and imaginative play

### COOKING

follow a recipe  
make a shopping list

### FOLLOW DIRECTIONS

read instructions from a manual  
use clues for a scavenger hunt  
read music  
follow a schedule  
work through Internet menus

### TELEPHONE BOOK

find the name of someone you know  
make up names and find where they would fit  
develop a family telephone directory

### NOTES, LETTERS AND CARDS

write a thank you for a gift  
compose a get-well message  
draft a letter to a relative or someone who has moved  
make a greeting card or invitation

### NEWSPAPER

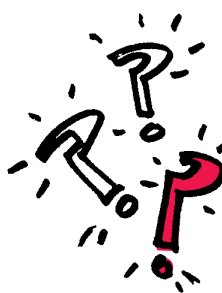
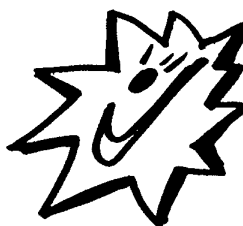
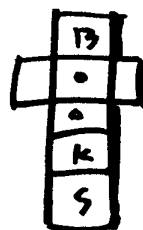
look for pictures of favourite athletes  
write captions for favourite photos  
find the temperature in the city where a relative lives  
search for three words that begin with D  
look for a movie or play to see  
write new dialogue for a cartoon strip

### REFRIGERATOR NEWS

write daily messages to each other  
keep track of when school assignments are due  
remind the family of upcoming events  
list jobs to be done or put entries in a job jar  
create riddles and jokes  
add shopping reminders  
post telephone messages

### FAMILY JOURNAL/ALBUM

record interesting family happenings  
describe special days, funny events  
keep track of visitors  
describe holiday trips or weekend excursions  
write captions for photographs  
read what you have written together



### GAMES

I spy  
crossword puzzles  
magazine puzzles  
alphabet game, using billboards  
licence plate games  
board games

### GIFTS

special paper, pencils, crayons, pictures, felt pens, stamps and stamp pads for younger children  
interesting stationery, envelopes, diaries, journals, novelty and calligraphy pens for older children  
books, magazines addressed specifically to the child, comic books, collector cards

### TV

look at new words, ideas, themes  
compare a novel adapted for TV to the book  
use documentaries, newscasts, wildlife presentations, historic events and science for information  
examine commercials; discuss how they make you want to buy

### NEWSPAPERS/MAGAZINES

look at print ads for clothes, shoes, cars and foods  
and discuss how they make you want to buy  
read the comics--do they offer more than laughs?

### COMPUTER PROGRAMS/ INTERNET/VIDEO GAMES

what makes information interesting?  
should information be entertaining?  
be interesting?  
how does music affect a presentation?  
what difference does animation make?  
what effect does colour/movement have?  
ask if programs stimulate critical and creative thinking

### TRIPS

visit craft and antique shops, museums  
and art galleries  
draw what you find there  
create a sculpture that could be found there  
visit a fair and draw what you saw there  
visit a local library or bookstore

### DRAMA

watch a play  
act out a scene from a movie or play  
draw a picture of a character or a scene  
mime a story  
recreate a story in dance  
play charades