



Conversation Starters

Research has shown time and time again that high quality teaching reduces gaps in student achievement regardless of the age or grade level of a student. As administrators, it is one of our key responsibilities to contribute to and foster improvements in student achievement.

In order to move student learning forward the role of the administrator is to support and improve teacher practices. One of the ways principals and vice-principals can support teachers is through a formal process by way of a teacher evaluation. Each board in every province has their own policies and procedures guiding this practice. Recognizing that these evaluations take place every few years, there are other ways and strategies that administrators can employ to help enhance student achievement within their school.

Something that often is helpful when entering a French immersion classroom is to have a couple conversation starters you are thinking of/or wondering about. After your classroom visit, it is important that you find the time either formally or informally to engage in a professional dialogue that ultimately will help lead or guide you in your next leadership moves. By focusing on, but not limited to these areas, you as an administrator can engage in meaningful conversations with teachers, provide constructive feedback, and work collaboratively to support continuous improvement in the French immersion teaching practices at your school.

As the principal or vice principal of a French immersion school, you may not be fluent in the language or might harbor reservations about your linguistic proficiency. However, your training in administrator preparation and your experience to date have sufficiently equipped you to enter classrooms and discern effective pedagogical practices. Each province likely has its own set of teaching standards, complete with criteria and expectations, and it is advisable for you to become familiar with these standards. Presented below are some useful conversation starters and potential follow-up questions that you might find beneficial during both formal and informal classroom visits.



Conversation Starters	Follow-up Questions
Can you provide examples of how you create authentic language experiences for students in the classroom using the CEFR?	Can you talk about your approach to integrating language learning with other subject areas?
How do you assess and provide feedback on students' content understanding in French?	<p>How do you use diagnostic data to inform your next instructional move in the classroom?</p> <p>How do you use formative and summative assessments to monitor and communicate students' progress?</p> <p>Can you discuss or elaborate on the adjustments you have made or make to your teaching based on your assessment data?</p>
Can you share examples of how you differentiate instruction to meet the diverse needs of students in a French Immersion setting/ in your classroom?	<p>Can you share some strategies that you use to create a positive and inclusive learning environment that supports language development in your classroom?</p> <p>What interventions or support systems do you have in place for students who may be struggling with language acquisition?</p>
How do you collaborate with colleagues to enhance the overall French Immersion program at your/our school?	<p>Do you have any colleagues that you feel comfortable speaking with? Who are your mentors?</p> <p>Do you have any concerns?</p>
How do you keep parents informed about their child's progress in French Immersion?	<p>Can you speak to how you involve parents in supporting language development at home?</p> <p>In what ways can we as a school community involve parents and caregivers in supporting students' language learning outside of the classroom?</p>
What professional development opportunities have you pursued or would like to pursue to enhance your skills in teaching in a French immersion context? How can I help?	<p>How do you reflect on your teaching practices and incorporate new learning into your instruction?</p> <p>How do you stay updated on current research and best practices related to French immersion teaching? Do you have a website or author you follow?</p>
How do you integrate technology to support French language learning and engagement in the classroom?	<p>Are there any online resources you favour?</p> <p>How do you promote oral interaction with online resources?</p> <p>Do you know about ACPI?</p>