



# The Carden School of Fresno

## Kindergarten French

Dear Parents,

I am looking forward to knowing you and your children. As the teacher, I will do my best to organize the teaching situations so we can have a challenging, joyful, and rewarding year. Of course, the students will have to do their part for I will expect the best from them. The following paragraphs comprise some information, which I hope will be helpful to you.

### **Objectives**

From preschool through eighth grade, the French curriculum at the Carden School of Fresno reflects Miss Carden's philosophy by preserving the "joy" of understanding and learning in a motivating and supportive atmosphere, giving students a true sense of their achievement by involving them in real and meaningful communication, and helping them becoming autonomous learners. The French program at Carden School-Fresno aims to integrate Miss Carden's philosophy with up-to-date methods based on brain research and second language acquisition so that the students are well prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In Kindergarten, the objectives of the course are more specifically for children to make sense of the language through sounds and visual messages, to concentrate on the musicality of the language, and to begin expressing themselves confidently in a limited context.

### **French Schedule**

Kindergarteners receive French instruction twice a week.

### **Curriculum**

French is the language of communication in the classroom. By the end of the year, most children are able to recognize the vocabulary listed below and use words and short sentences in answer to a prompt. They are able to follow the teacher's instructions, to understand simple conversations and stories. Keep in mind that the level of the child's comprehension is much higher than his/her ability to express himself/herself.

Greetings

Flag salute

Naming people and common objects

Alphabet (esp. simple French vowel sounds)

Numbers 1-20

Days of the week, months

Colors

Farm and Zoo animals

Action verbs: play, sing, eat, jump, read, count, write, color

Comprehension of basic classroom directions and vocabulary

We use French versions of familiar children stories, traditional French songs, and the musical tale *Lili, la petite grenouille* by Sylvie Meyer-Dreux published by CLE International. A variety of teacher made

materials enhance the learning experience. Occasionally, the children will view parts of the video programs Muzzy DVD French I published by Early Advantage and Bonjour les amis.

### **Parental Support**

An important key to success is a positive attitude in the home toward the language and the program. You can support your child by showing interest in his/her language experience. If your child is eager to speak French at home, offer encouragement, but never pressure him/her to do so. Some students are very shy to express themselves in French outside the classroom, especially to their family members. You can reinforce and enrich your child experience in French by encouraging your child to find signs of French language and culture in his/her surroundings. Labeling objects in the home, reading bilingual books, listening to French tapes. The French Muzzy I DVD program is available in a home version at [www.Early-Advantage.com](http://www.Early-Advantage.com).

### **French folder/ Homework**

Your child has been provided with a blue French folder to store flashcards and papers which support the learning of French. Periodically on a Friday, your child will bring the folder home to share with you what he/she is learning. Please, help your child return the folder and its content by the following Monday. Pages marked **Keep home** can stay home. Other pages and the flashcards have to be returned in the folder as we use them for reference and/or games. Please note that there is no assigned French homework in Kindergarten.

### **Classroom rules**

#### **Prompt - Préparé – Poli - Productif**

I expect the students to observe their classroom and the school rules during the French lessons. Failure to do so will result in a verbal warning for the first two offenses, and a phone call to parents on the third one.

### **Absences**

The learning taking place in class cannot be made up. Although I will do my best to help your child upon his/her return, excessive absences will more likely slow down the child's progress and may lower his/her confidence.

### **Grading**

Your child will receive a participation grade reflecting his/her active involvement in the lessons:

Participation	50 %
Behavior	50%

In conclusion, I will teach and value your child. I will be available to you, the parents, in order to discuss your child's progress or any problems that we might have. Please leave a message with the office should you have any questions. We have a common interest: your child. Let's support one another so he/she can grow as an individual and become a productive member of the world community. May our children become lifelong French language learners.

Sincerely,

*Mme Vang*