



# EARLY YEARS IN FOCUS

<http://kentcollege.com/early-years>



ACTIVE PLAY - ACTIVE LEARNING  
OPEN MORNING  
SATURDAY 26TH MARCH

## Introducing Your Child to an Additional Language

Teaching preschool children a foreign language is a great way to expose them to a different culture and expand their language development. It provides your little ones with not only a huge advantage for later language acquisition but also for their future overall academic performance. At a young age, children are very receptive to new sounds, which become familiar very quickly. They are uninhibited and quickly become confident and at ease with the foreign language. For this reason, at Kent College Nursery, Infant and Junior School we use a lot of songs, games and stories in Early Years French lessons, so that our children learn just like young French children do. These are activities that they enjoy and will repeat over and over again, absorbing the language as they play.



DANCING



FRUIT SALAD!



MOVEMENT GAMES



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If you are not a linguist, it can be difficult to know how to teach your child a foreign language at home. Here we share with you a few methods that we employ in the Early Years classroom that could be easily adopted at home.

## Songs

Singing songs, especially action songs, is a fun way to teach younger children a new language. There are many catchy songs in simple French that teach basic numbers and vocabulary. Try 'la tête, les épaules, les genoux, et les pieds', to the same tune as the English version 'head, shoulders, knees and toes' and see how quickly your child picks up the new words.

## Games

Games allow children to be physically involved in the language learning activity. Young children may not wish to use the new sounds at first, but enjoyment of the games will encourage them to want to play again and again.

Our Reception children have great fun playing a variety of language learning games. 'Jacques a dit', the French version of 'Simon Says' is always extremely popular and can be used to teach action words like 'sauter' (jump), 'dansez', (dance), 'tournez' (turn around), frappez vos mains (clap your hands); or parts of the face 'touchez vos yeux, oreilles, cheveux' (touch your eyes, ears, hair).

'Les quatre coins' or 'four corners' is a simple game that you can also enjoy at home. Place four coloured bean bags or four different coloured flash cards in the corners of a room. If you call 'marron' the child must run to the brown bean bag, 'rouge' to the red and so on. When your child is confident with the names of the colours, swap them for four new ones or ask your child to be the 'caller' and follow his instructions!



'touchez votre nez'



'sauter'



'frappez vos mains'



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## Books

All children enjoy a bedtime story and the 'I can read French' books are an excellent tool for introducing your child to new French words. The 'I can read French' books have parallel French and English texts, with appealing stories and illustrations. The books have lots of repetition and a short picture dictionary at the end highlights the key vocabulary. There is also a complete guide to the pronunciation of the foreign language which is a great addition for those parents whose school French may be just a little rusty!

Article written by Madame J. Jenner



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To experience and join in with many of the activities introduced in our latest editions of EYIF please bring your little one along to our Open Morning 0930 -1200. We look forward to welcoming you and exploring together the array of learning opportunities both indoors and outdoors. Click on 'Sign up for 26th March Open Day' to register your interest.