

1. Title: French Language Immersion for children

2. Purpose: If you live in a large urban community, you are often faced with a myriad of choices when it comes to choosing a kindergarten or school for your child.

Between magnet schools, neighborhood schools and charter schools, it can become overwhelming. When you add immersion schools into the mix it's even more confusing. School district websites are often very general and aren't set up to go into great detail about the different choices that are offered. So how do you choose? If you choose an immersion program, how do you know if it will be a good fit for your child? How does it work? The purpose of this website would be to educate people, mostly parents, in the benefits of language immersion, specifically French and would also provide resources including a search of immersion programs nationwide, a click able map showing where french is spoken and links for further information. It would also explore some common myths about the French language as well as provide ideas for future careers where French might be considered valuable.

About language immersion school (source: pbs.org):

Children are often able to learn a foreign language much faster if they begin studying at an early age. Studies show that learning a second language at a young age has a positive effect on intellectual growth and leaves students with more flexibility in thinking, greater sensitivity to language, and improved listening skills.

Over the last 20 years, many school systems have started language immersion programs at the elementary level. The main goals are to teach students to be fluent in a language other than English, and to be able to understand and communicate in that language. In order for it to work, the students must be successful in all subject areas, as if they had learned them all in English.

The most obvious benefit of an immersion program is that students emerge being able to communicate in more than one language. If students continue their study of both languages through the later grades, they can have an advantage in the global

community, over those who are not bilingual. Many employers value employees who can speak more than one language. In addition, being bilingual provides an appreciation for cultures other than the child's own. It gives children the ability to communicate with people they would otherwise not have had the chance to know. It helps them to understand how diverse our world is, and also realize that not everyone is like them.

3. The type of people that would be interested in the information. People who are interested in finding out if an immersion program would be a good fit for their child. They might also have an interest in French culture, like to travel or think globally when it comes to education.

4. Target audience - what groups of people would be interested in your site.

Prospective parents who are thinking of enrolling their child in a public school option for language immersion, typically at kindergarten level.

5. Images. For this site I may try to avoid using the most obvious pictures of France but have included an image just in case. I have some other ideas on how to illustrate bilingual communication that don't include the iconic Eiffel tower.

6. Document where you got your information. My information and curiosity about immersion schools came from brochures handed out at the St. Paul, MN school fair, a tour I recently took at a French Immersion School in St. Paul, MN, and also a few websites that describe and reinforce information that I found in the brochures.

<http://www.educationnews.org/> and <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/earlychildhood/articles/language.html>

