

Additional suggestions for language practice

The next two pages give some suggestions for games and activities that can be used with larger groups of children, for example, in class or at French out-of-school organisations, holiday clubs and so on.

It is often useful to have some basic commands in French and some of these listed below may be helpful. All the instructions are in the plural form to talk to more than one child.

Regardez-moi! [regarday mwa] meaning **Look at me!**

Levez la main! [luhvay la mang] meaning **Put up your hand!**

Levez-vous! [luhvay voo] meaning **Stand up!**

Dessinez...! [desseenay] meaning **Draw...!**

Allez-y! [allayzee] meaning **Get started!**

Vite! [veet] meaning **Quickly!**

Doucement! [doosamong] meaning **Quietly!**

Très bien! [treh beeyan] meaning **Very good!**

Bravo! [bravoe] meaning **Well done!**

Écoutez! [aycootay] meaning **Listen!**

Arrêtez-vous! [arretay voo] meaning **Stop!**

Asseyez-vous! [assayay voo] meaning **Sit down!**

Écrivez votre nom! [aycreevay voe nom] meaning **Write your name!**

Allez! [allay] meaning **Go!**

Lentement! [lawntamong] meaning **Slowly!**

Fort! [for] meaning **Loudly!**

Fantastique! [fantasteek] meaning **Fantastic!**

Gagné! [ganee-ay] meaning **You've won!**

Outdoor activities

Lots of activities can be played outside, including standard children's games but with a French twist. Here are just a few ideas:

- Send children off on a "Scavenger Hunt", looking for **quelque chose de vert/jaune/marron** and so on.
- Write numbers on the ground with chalk, shout out numbers or sums and children have to run to the correct one – this could also be played in teams.
- Children stand up against the wall and each is given one of 4 French words, for example, colours, pets, numbers and so on. One person stands in the middle and shouts out one of the words. The children who have been given that word try to run past the catcher in the middle without getting caught. Anyone caught helps to catch the others when they are called. Another version of this is where children stand in a circle and are each given one of 4 French words. One of the words is called out and the children who have been given that word have to run round the outside of the circle and back to their space. The last person back sits down.
- Use a parachute to practise colours – children have to run under the parachute to swap places with someone else who is also holding the colour that has been called out.

Did you know? French children use this choosing rhyme (equivalent to **eeny, meeny, miny, mo**):

Am stram gram, Pic et pic et colégram, Bour et bour et ra ta tam, Am stram gram .., Pic dam!

Active games

There are many ways to incorporate French into games which can be played in an indoor (or outdoor) space. Some examples of these are:

- Play “Corners” – put a picture in each corner of the area. The pictures could be of, for example, **les couleurs, la famille, les animaux**. Children move around the room and on a signal they go to stand in one of the corners. A corner is called out in French by the leader and the children in that corner are out. Keep playing until only a winner is left.
- Stand in a circle with the first child counting either 1 or 1, 2 or 1, 2, 3 in French and the next child continuing from there, saying an additional one, two or three numbers. Keep counting around the circle until someone says 13. That person then sits down and the game begins again, until there is only one person left.
- Ask children to move around the room – **vite/lentement** – and when they hear a part of the body they have to find a partner and touch those parts of the body together.
- Sit in a circle and give each child one of 4 or 5 French words belonging to a particular category, for example, pets, colours, family members. One child stands in the middle of the circle and calls out one of these words. Each child who has been given that word has to swap places with someone else with that word. The one person left in the middle is the next person to choose the word.

Quiet activities

There are lots of ideas to consolidate learning in French through activities that do not require too much space or moving around. Below are just a few ideas:

- Use building blocks to practise French numbers and colours – one child could describe a tower they have built and see if others can copy it without seeing it.
- “Consequences” is a fun way of reinforcing basic language. Each child has a piece of paper. At the top they have to answer the question **Comment tu t’appelles?** in a sentence, then fold over the paper and pass it to the person beside them. The next person answers the question **Tu as un animal?**, folds over the paper and passes it on. This can continue with questions and answers, with the paper being folded over and passed on each time. Finally, the paper is unfolded and the answers read out – it usually makes for a funny story!
- Call out the alphabet, a letter at a time. If a child hears one of the letters in their name, they need to stand up and say **moi!** before sitting down again and waiting for the next letter.
- Dice are great for practising numbers and can also be used in other activities. Draw 6 pets and number them 1-6: ask a child to roll the dice and tell you which animal they have rolled. This could be used for other word categories, or extend the game from 1-12 and use two dice added together.

Traditional French games

Children often find it interesting to play games from another country and culture. Here are a few games which are played by French children:

- **Un, deux, trois, soleil** - One person stands facing a wall while the others line up at the other end of the playground. The person with their back to the others calls ‘**un, deux, trois...**’ while the others creep up on them. When the person shouts ‘**soleil!**’ and turns around, all the others have to be as still as statues. If they are seen moving they have to go back to the beginning. The winner is the one who makes it to the wall without being seen moving.
- **La marelle** - “Hopscotch” – draw out the hopscotch grid and use it to practise counting in French.
- **Pierre, papier, ciseaux** – the classic game of “rock, paper, scissors”.