

Additional suggestions for language practice

This page gives 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]
Look at me!

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

Levez-vous! [luhvay voo]
Stand up!

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

Vite! [veet] **Quickly!**

Doucement! [doosamong]
Quietly!

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

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

Écoutez! [aycootay] **Listen!**

Arrêtez-vous! [arretay voo]
Stop!

Asseyez-vous! [assayay voo]
Sit down!

Allez! [allay] **Go!**

Lentement! [lawntamong]
Slowly!

Plus fort! [ploofor] **Loudly!**

Fantastique! [fantasteek]
Fantastic!

Encore! [oncore] **Again!**

Active games are a great way of reinforcing learning as well as having fun in French. These games can be played inside or outside:

- Half of the children sit down in a row down the length of the area and the other half sit facing them. They stretch their legs out so that their feet touch to form a human “ladder”. Make sure there is space between the pairs. Each pair is given a French word (number, colour, animal, type of food etc) and when their word is called out they have to run over the legs, round the outside and back to their place as quickly as possible. Teammates can encourage their runner in French by shouting **Allez!**
- Children form teams of 4 or 5 and stand at one end of the area. At the other end there are the same number of large pieces of paper as there are teams. On each of these pieces of paper is written French numbers, colours, letters or whatever is being practised. When the adult calls out one of these French words, the first team member has to run to the paper and circle the correct number, colour, letter etc. To make it more fun, if the number that has been called out isn't on the paper, the child has to do 5 star jumps!
- Ask children to move around the room in different ways, maybe in the manner of **une tortue** or **un cheval**. Call out a number in French and the children need to form groups of that number and sit down. Make it more difficult by shouting out a sum in French: (eg **huit moins cinq**) so they have to work out the sum and then form the group.

There are also times where some quieter games are called for to consolidate what has been learnt in French. A few ideas are:

- “Chinese whispers” – pass a sentence in French round the circle and see what it sounds like at the end. How close does it sound to the original? Where did it all go wrong?
- Make up a shopping list: **Je vais faire les courses et j'achète... I'm going shopping and I'm going to buy...** Each person has to try to remember what the previous item was and then add their own item to the list. Of course, it doesn't just have to be food – you can buy anything at the shops!
- Make up a grid with the same number of French questions as there are children in the group, for example, **Tu as un chat?**, **Tu aimes la pizza?**, **Ton anniversaire est en octobre?** The children have to find a different person to answer **oui** for each question and write their name in the grid.