

Homework help in French immersion: *Parent and teacher perspectives.*



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**IMMERSION 2012:
BRIDGING CONTEXTS FOR A MULTILINGUAL WORLD
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Agenda

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1	Canadian Context
2	Relevant Research + Questions
3	Activity
4	Study Findings
5	Moving Forward + Discussion

Canadian Context



- Two official languages = English & French
- Multiple French as a second language program formats...



- French Immersion
- French = taught as a subject and serves as the language of instruction in other subjects
- Starting grade & proportion of French varies by school board

Homework - Parents



- Parents assume they should be involved in homework (Cooper, 1989)
- More involvement in younger grades (Hoover-Dempsey et al., 2001)

Positive Effects

- Parental involvement
- Home-school connection
- Aware of academic progress
- Student achievement

Negative Effects

- Satiation
- Cheating
- Parental Interference

Canadian Context

- Parents helped more in younger grades; peers in upper grades
- ↑ in grades = ↑ in time spent on homework & ↓ attitudes

*Cameron & Bartel (2008)

Homework - Parents



French Immersion Context

- Struggle to help with homework because of lack of French
- Need more help understanding homework expectations
- Proposed solutions (e.g., literacy at home in English & French)

*Eagle (1996)

- Lack of French → perceived alienation from child
- Teacher actively included parents in homework
- Reported ↑ in parent's confidence that they were contributing

*von Mende (2000)

Homework - Teachers



- Reasons for assigning homework...

Practice

Participation

Policy

Peer interactions

Preparation

Punishment

Personal development

Parent-child relations

Parent-teacher relations

*Epstein (1998, 2001)

Canadian Context

- Teachers communicate with parents using agendas
- Believe parents should ensure homework is completed

*Deslandes (2009)

- FI teachers identify parents as being very supportive

*Lapkin, MacFarlane & Vandergrift (2006)

Research Questions



- What resources/supports do teachers provide to parents to help them assist their children with FI homework?
- Are there areas where teachers' and parents' views differ when it comes to FI homework and parents' needs?



ACTIVITY



Your Hypotheses!

Pretend you are an Immersion teacher or parent - how would you answer the following questions ?

PARENTS

- What are the Top 3 supports or resources that *you find most useful* when helping your child with Immersion homework?

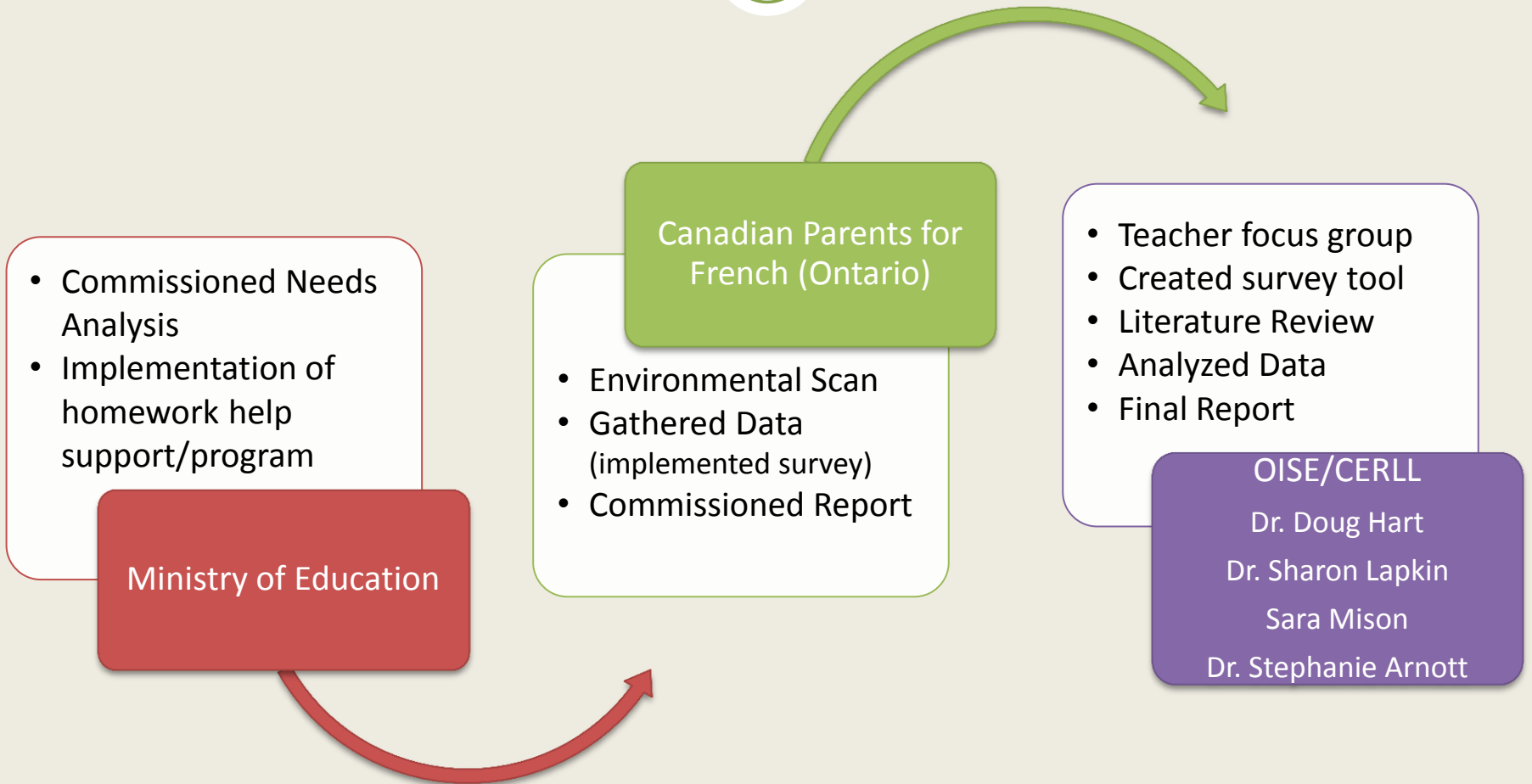
TEACHERS

- What are the Top 3 supports or resources that you find are *most useful to parents* when helping their child with French Immersion homework?



METHODS + PARTICIPANTS

Partnerships



Methodology



- Literature Review
- Environmental Scan
- Focus Group
- Teacher Survey
 - Open link posted on www.cpfont.on.ca (May – June 2010)
 - Emailed notification of the survey to all FSL Consultants, OMLTA, ACPI, Concours officials, 153 responded
- Parent Survey
 - 1985 CPF Ontario members picked at random were contacted, representing all regions of Ontario, 605 responded
 - Response rate: 30.5 %
 - Completed the survey either online or over the phone (May – June 2010)



FINDINGS

Teacher perceptions



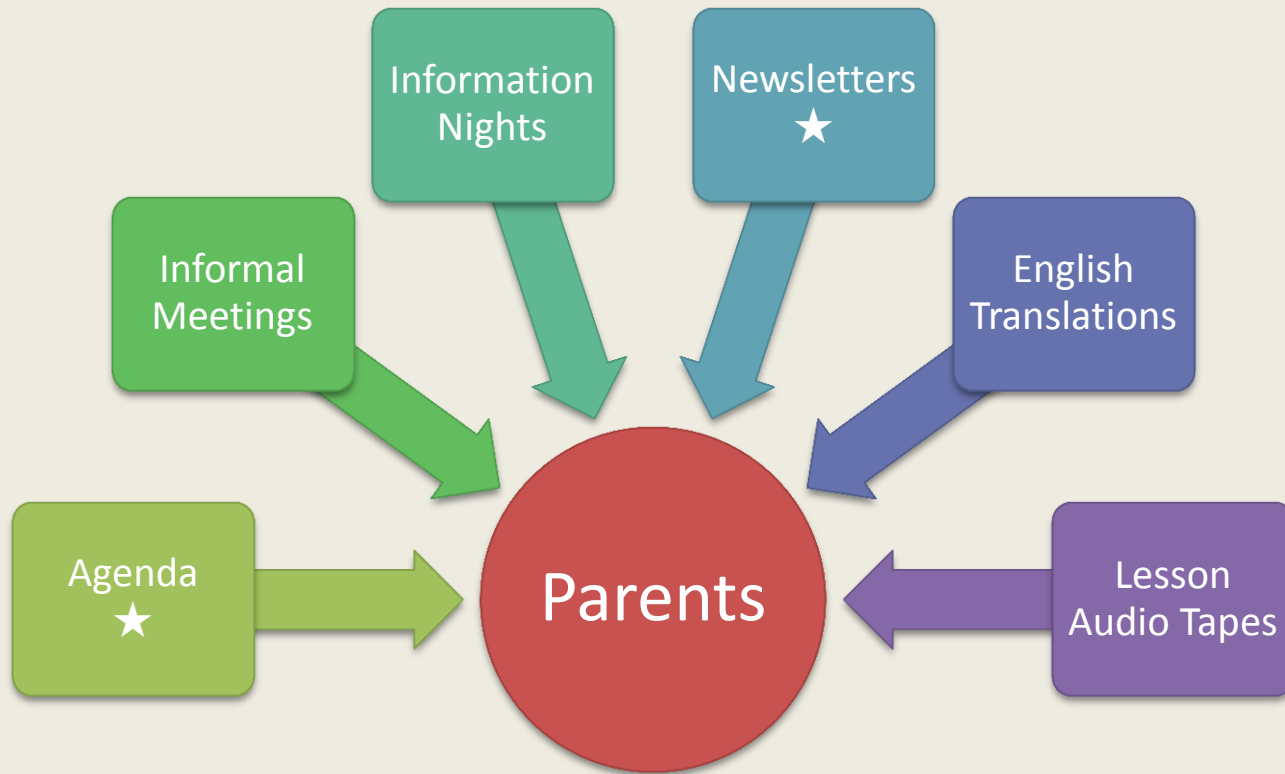
- *What resources/supports do teachers provide to parents to help them assist their children with FI homework?*
 - Effective communication about homework
 - Clarifying role of parents in helping with homework
 - Helping students = helping parents

Communication of Homework Expectations



- Majority of teachers felt that “all” or “most” parents understood their approach to homework
- Majority of parents felt they were aware of the teacher’s expectations
- Teachers reported communicating often with parents during the school year :
 - 39 % communicate 3-5 times a year
 - 50 % communicate 6+ times a year

Forms of Homework Communication



Parents' Responsibilities



- Ensure a quiet and equipped workspace
- Carve out time for homework
- Positive outlook
- Resources – French-English dictionary
- Ensure homework is complete
- Act as an audience

How do teachers' and parents' views compare?



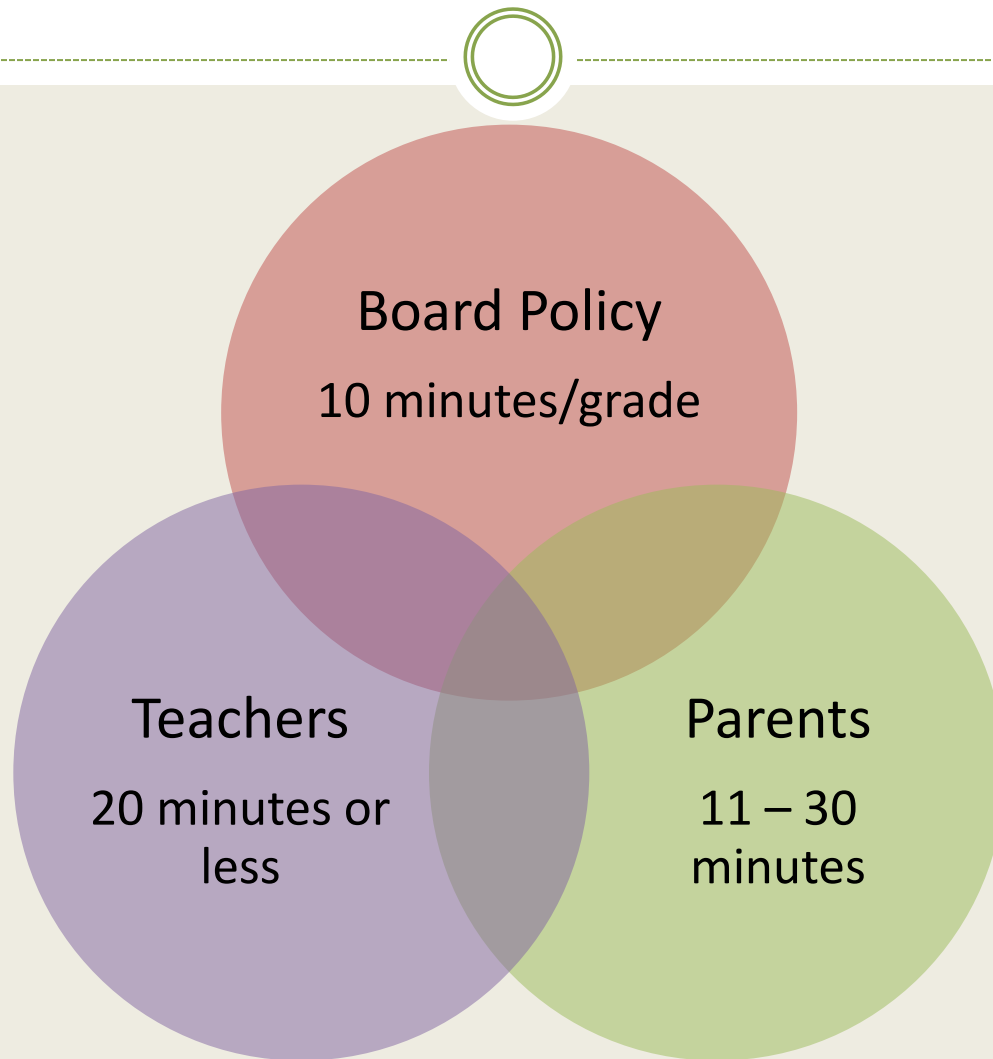
Similarities

- Student attitudes
- Internet resources
- 'How-to' guide for parents without French language skills

Differences

- Time for homework
- How much homework gets done
- Resources parents use
- Resources parents need

Time for Homework (per night)



Homework Completion



TEACHERS

10% - 25% of their students fail to complete their homework



PARENTS

Almost all children completed their homework most nights



What does "complete" look like?

Homework resources that parents **USE**



Teachers

- school/library resources
- teacher
- internet resources

Parents

- internet resources
- school/library resources

****Teachers dissatisfied with available internet resources?***

Homework resources that parents **NEED**



Teachers

- internet resources
- a 'how-to' guide for parents without French language skills
- **school library resources**

Parents

- internet resources
- a 'how-to' guide for parents without French language skills
- **communication about homework**

Moving forward...



- Online homework help:

<http://www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca/index.php>

- Revised online resource for parents:

Yes you can help!: Information and Inspiration for parents of French immersion students (www.cpf.ca)

- **What can you do in your classroom/school?**

- Helping with homework not just about knowing the target language
- Communicate expectations
- Online resources (*French - see www.cpfont.on.ca under “French Resources”)
- Other material resources for parents
- Homework club

What DO you do in your classroom/school?

Thank you!!



**Needs analysis:
French immersion homework help program**

Hart, D., Lapkin, S., Mison, S., & Arnott, S. (2010).

www.cpfont.ca (under “Research”)

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