



Ici on parle français – PD grants for FSL teachers

Conversations That Count: Using Strive for Five to Boost Oral Language in the French Immersion Classroom

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What We Did

Together, we studied the book *Strive-for-Five Conversations: A Framework That Gets Kids Talking to Accelerate Their Language Comprehension and Literacy* by Dr. Tricia A. Zucker and Dr. Sonia Q. Cabell. Our goal was to explore how structured, responsive conversations can be used to promote oral language development in our early French Immersion classrooms. We focused on practical ways to implement the Strive-for-Five framework to encourage sustained, meaningful interactions that support students' language comprehension and overall literacy. To support our learning and implementation, we purchased classroom resources such as text sets, and oral language games designed to scaffold and extend student talk. We also met with a French Speech and Language pathologist to gain perspective on oral language development and strategies to support student in a second language context.



What We Learned

We deepened our understanding of how purposeful, structured conversations can significantly impact students' oral language, comprehension, and overall literacy development—especially in a second language context. Key takeaways included:

- The importance of sustained back-and-forth interactions to build language comprehension
- Strategies for prompting and extending student responses using the Strive-for-Five framework
- How to create language-rich environments through intentional text selection and conversation scaffolds
- The role of background knowledge and vocabulary in supporting oral language and literacy
- Ways to adapt the framework for early French Immersion learners, including the use of visuals and sentence stems
- Insights from our session with the French Speech and Language Pathologist on language acquisition and support strategies



How We Shared Our Learning With Others

We regularly met as a team to reflect on our classroom experiences and to discuss how we were applying the Strive-for-Five framework. These collaborative discussions allowed us to troubleshoot challenges and share successes. We also shared our findings with colleagues



Links to Our Work

[Conversations That Count](#) - Slideshow Presentation



Any Next Steps We Have To Continue Our Learning

We plan to integrate the Strive-for-Five framework into our long-range plans for next year, ensuring that intentional oral language opportunities are embedded across subject areas. We hope to build classroom routines that promote rich, sustained conversations in French from the very start of the year. We also plan to create and share supporting resources—such as visual aids, sentence stems, and themed text sets—to help scaffold student talk and support colleagues in implementing these strategies. Continuing to collaborate as a team will be essential as we refine our practice and monitor the impact on student oral language development.