

Summary of SSLA – The Natural Approach

SSLA TIMEFRAME

Stage 1 – Preproduction or The silent period (10 hours to 6 month) approximately 500 receptive words

Stage 2 – Early Production (additional 6 months) approximately 1000 receptive/active words

Stage 3 – Speech Emergence (additional 1 year) approximately 3000 active words

Stage 4 – Intermediate Fluency (additional 1 year) approximately 6000 active words

Stage 5 – Advanced Fluency (5 to 7 years) Content area vocabulary

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Be sure to visit the Modern Languages website at:

<https://curriculum.abbyschools.ca/curriculum/languages>



EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION



Stages of Second Language Acquisition (SSLA)
The Natural Approach



A bilingual educational opportunity

Partners in Learning

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Stages of Second Language Acquisition

When or how will my child acquire French?



By far this is the most often asked question by French Immersion parents (or future French Immersion parents). One of the main concerns French Immersion parents have is they want to know when their child will actually acquire the second language or seeing or hearing concrete evidence of this acquisition.

Acquiring a new language can be best described, as with any other skill to be acquired by a child, with stages of development. The following theory best describes the acquisition of French in an immersion setting.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Terrell, T.D. (1977)

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The Stages of Second Language Acquisition (SSLA) – The Natural Approach

Students show that they understand what's been said by:

Stage 1: Pre-production (the silent period)

- Pointing to an item/picture or person
- Performing an act (such as standing up or opening the door)
- Gesturing or nodding (to show agreement or disagreement)
- Saying "yes" or "no"

Stage 2: Early production

- Answering with "yes" or "no"
- Answering questions with one word (for example, "Is the box big or little?" "Big")
- Putting two or more words together (for example, "small square")
- Using repetitive language patterns (for example, "May I go to the bathroom?" "My name is John.")

Stage 3: Speech emergence

- Using 3 or more words and short phrases (for example, "I like pizza." "Stand up.")
- Using beginning dialog
- Using full simple sentences (for example, "There are four pencils.")

Stage 4: Intermediate fluency

- Using complex statements (for example, "I want to learn about reptiles that live in Africa.")
- Stating options (for example, "I think this food is too spicy.")
- Speaking at length
- Asking for clarification (for example, "Can you explain the difference between a plain and a plateau to me?")
- Share original thoughts

Stage 5: Advanced fluency

- Participating fully in the grade level classroom activities with support for understanding specialized academic language in the content area
- Continuing to grow in their cultural and background knowledge of the language



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