

# Early Childhood Services

## La Francisation

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### What is Francisation?

Francisation programming is solely offered by Francophone regional authorities and supported by Alberta Education. Francisation aims to support eligible children and students in developing the French language skills that will allow them to fully integrate socially, academically, culturally and within the Francophone community and in Canadian society in general.

### Who is eligible for Francisation funding?

Francisation programming supports eligible children and students registered in a Francophone education program offered by a Francophone regional authority. Francisation funding is provided for children from the age of 3 years, 8 months (as of September 1) and up, whether they were born in Canada or abroad.

Francisation funding, in addition to Early Childhood Services (ECS) base instruction funding, supports children of section 23 right holders as per the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* who speak minimal or no French and who are enrolled in a Francophone preschool program. Funding supports the development of the French language skills of these children in the context of their natural learning experiences. Francisation funding also provides opportunities to reinforce their cultural identity and sense of belonging to their Francophone communities.

### How are children identified as being eligible for Francisation funding?

Francisation funding and programming needs are determined by an annual assessment of a child's language proficiency undertaken by a certified teacher. Documentation must be on file to indicate the child's French language proficiency upon arrival and following a year of programming.

In collaboration with the Francophone regional authorities, Alberta Education has developed [La francisation: l'affaire de tout le monde](#), a digital resource that offers a range of supports for Francisation planning, programming and assessing for children in Francophone preschool settings.

### Who is responsible for conducting the program?

Programming is offered by a Francophone preschool service. Assessment of French language skills is the responsibility of a certificated teacher who reports to a Francophone regional authority.

## Why is Francisation funding provided to Francophone regional authorities for children who are as young as 3 years, 8 months of age on September 1?

In a predominantly English milieu, young children and their families may need extra support to acquire proficiency in the French language. Providing Francisation funding and programming for children as young as 3 years 8 months of age who are at a rapid stage of language growth supports and enhances their developing language proficiency in French as well as their general skills in communication and literacy in the other languages spoken by the child.

## What are some recommendations to support Francisation preschool programming?

Optimal programming for Francisation supports children in developing French language skills in natural learning contexts that are linguistically rich and play-based, and that provide opportunities for peer interaction in French. Programming should be developmentally appropriate and child-centred and involve family and community members. The focus is not on academic readiness.

The [Guide pour l'accompagnement des jeunes enfants en francisation](#) offers information that supports early learning programming in Francisation. This guide, as well as other supports in early learning, can be found in the « Petite enfance » section of Alberta Education's resource [La francisation: l'affaire de tout le monde](#).