Bilingualism in a Plurilingual Canada Podcast Series

EAL Students in FSL Programs: Perspectives from Intensive French, by Wendy Carr

Author
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Summary
Wendy talks about her research on the inclusion of English as additional language learners within French as a second language programs – speaking first hand from her experience in British Columbia.

Facts
- When students learn a second or additional language, they often develop knowledge and insights about their first language.
- For English as additional language (or EAL) learners who participate in FSL programs, the same positive effect on English proficiency has been observed.
- Studies have been conducted on EAL learners in French Immersion and Core French settings, and, as of very recently, from Intensive French as well.
- The study in BC involved EAL students starting intensive French along with an equal number of similarly-levelled EAL students in the regular English program. A total of 86 students were tested in English at the start and end of each of three years. There was a statistically significant difference between the growth experienced by EAL students in intensive French and that of their peers in the regular English program. In Oral Language, for example, the estimated mean grade level score of EAL students in the IF program increased by 2.8 years compared to 1.8 years experienced by their peers in the regular English program.
It is important to welcome all learners into our FSL programs, especially English as additional language learners. A growing body of research supports their inclusion, and it is up to us as educators to spread the word!

**Further Reading**


