

Teaching French through Songs & Games 2011

Begin each French class by singing Bonjour, in one form or another.

Division One children:

Dis Bonjour, comment ça va?
Dis bonjour, ça va, et toi?
Dis Bonjour et descend, et descend, et descend
Dis Bonjour, comment ça va?

Division Two children:

Bonjour ma cousine,
Bonjour mon cousin germain
On m'a dit que vous m'aimiez
Est-ce bien la vérité?
Je m'en soucie guère (2x)
Passez par ici, et moi par là!
Au revoir ma cousine, et puis voilà!

The importance of appropriate physical contact, including eye contact among children.

Multi purpose songs:

Ma mere m'envoie-t-au marché

Ma mere m'envoies-t-au marché
C'est pour des sabots acheté.
Mes sabots font digue-digue-don
Digue-digue-don font mes sabots.
Je ne suis pas marchand, ma mere
Pour des sabots acheté!

Add ANYTHING else you can think of as an item to be purchased. If you're working on an animal theme, use animals; if you're learning foods, use foods. The possibilities are endless.

Ma mere m'envoie-t-au marché
C'est pour une pizza acheté
La pizza fait hem-hem-hem
Mes sabots font digue-digue-don
Digue-digue-don font mes sabots
Je ne suis pas marchand ma mere,
Pour une pizza acheté!

Je suis une pizza (From the Charlotte Diamond Cd “Qu’il y ait toujours le soleil”, used with permission)

Je suis une pizza (echo each line)

Avec du fromage

Beaucoup de sauce

Des tomates

Des oignons, des champignons

Epices mélanges

Je suis une pizza, prête à manger!

Je suis une pizza

Pepperoni

Pas d’anchois

Ni phoney-baloney

Je suis une pizza

Téléphones-moi

Je suis une pizza, apportes-moi chez toi!

J’étais une pizza, trésor de la cuisine.

Je suis une pizza, tombée en ruine!

Autres activités:

Teach the vocabulary

Pizza restaurant skit (teacher models for the first few times)

Students create their own skit, when vocabulary is well learned.

Create a drawing of a pizza or a model or a real one.

Group baking activity by preference.

Jeu de cerise

Une cerise, quelle surprise!

Je crois qu’elle est pour moi!

Elle est ronde,

Elle est lisse

Sur ma langue, elle glisse

Je la tiens par la queue,

Est-ce que tu la veux?

With real cherries:

1. The teacher models the poem and the actions and game (choose your first accomplice ahead of time)
2. Each student who gets a cherry must now join the teacher with a new cherry of their own.

Compère Guilleri (hand jive, progressively faster, change partners each time)

Il était un p'tit homme
Qui s'appelait Guilleri, carabi
Il s'en fut à la chasse
À la chasse aux perdrix, carabi

Refrain:

Titi carabi, toto, carabo
Compère Guilleri
te laisseras-tu, te laiss'ras-tu, te laiss'ras-tu mouri**?

Il s'en fut à la chasse
À la chasse aux perdrix, carabi
Il monta sur un arbre
Pour voir ses chiens couri**, carabi

Refrain

Il monta sur un arbre
Pour voir ses chiens couri**, carabi
La branche vint à rompre
Et Guilleri tombit***, carabi

Refrain

To fill just a few minutes:

Je pense à quelqu'un

Je pense à une animal

Il court, il court le furêt (game with rope and ring)

Daily lesson plan

5-10 minutes

A song or poem, done standing, preferably with a partner.

- Each of my opening activities lasts three classes, then I change. Don't kill a song. (Break the pattern of whatever came before, establish social parameters, get them engaged body-mind-feelings with the activity..and the class)

25-30 minutes

Present new vocabulary or grammar/ continue work from previous class

- orally first
- in groups or in writing

Not more than 5 minutes; better to leave them wanting more than to overdo something. If time permits, end with a quick game.

(As a reminder that French is fun and alive, and so they can end the class successfully.)

Remember that we are teaching French to visual, auditory, kinesthetic and global learners and that we must appeal to all of these learning styles and keep the language ALIVE.

Think of how young children learn their mother tongue and continue to value the purely oral and purely fun as a way to promote flow of the language and anchor "the music" of it, well past the first few months or even the first few years of second language exposure.

Some useful websites to research theme-related songs and poems:

www.momes.net

www.mamalisa.com

www.caslt.com If you purchase a membership you will have unlimited access to a very extensive archive of songs and activities.

"Je suis une pizza" is taken from Charlotte Diamond's CD **"Qu'il y ait toujours le soleil"**.

This, and her CD **"Bonjour l'hiver"**, are essential resources for French teachers. They can be ordered from www.charlottediamond.com

My company name is **Listening Voice Media Ltd**

My website is www.listeningvoice.com

If you purchase any of my books and CDs just include a note in the "comment" section that you attended one of my convention presentations and I will refund your shipping costs PLUS 10%.

"Teaching French through Songs & Games Vol. 2" is in the works. If you would like to be notified when it's available, and/or be invited to the book launches in either Calgary or Edmonton, please send me your contact information with a request to be included.

Your information will not be shared with anyone, ever, for any reason.