

Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) program

Information for primary school educators

ELLA is a fun, digital, play-based language learning program for children in preschool. The aim is for children to recognise the different sounds and concepts of a language other than English through the introduction of words, sentences and songs in age-appropriate experiences and practices. Early experience in language learning is an important platform for encouraging language learning in the later years of education.

Preschools involved in this project have chosen one of the available languages to incorporate into their educational program. The ELLA apps are designed to provide children with early language learning experiences and are aligned to the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and the Australian Curriculum (Foundation to Year 2).

The ELLA apps

- The ELLA apps are designed to be engaging and educational.
- The design and development of the ELLA apps was guided by experts in languages, early childhood and technology.
- Children play together as they explore the apps, sharing ideas and helping each other.
- Learning experiences within apps are play-based and draw on the interests and activities of young children; for example, a sandpit, cooking experiences, art activities, building and role-play.
- Educators and children learn together – an effective and collaborative learning method.

What are the benefits for children of participating in ELLA?

There are many benefits to learning another language in the ELLA program.

- Children expand their knowledge of how language works and apply these skills to other literacy tasks such as listening carefully to sounds in words. These skills will be used when children learn to read and write.
- Language learning increases memory, concentration and critical thinking skills.
- Children use social skills when they play with the apps. They share the tablets and their knowledge, and they interact and help each other.
- The apps provide opportunities for children to increase their digital skills.
- The apps create opportunities to celebrate culture and diversity, to share home languages, and to strengthen links between families and the preschool.
- The skills and understandings developed through ELLA can be extended in children's language learning experiences at school, whether this be continuing with the same language or transferring to a new language.

The ELLA program is funded by the Australian Government and managed by Education Services Australia.

Want to find out more? Visit the ELLA website: www.ella.edu.au

Key French language included in the ELLA apps

Each of the ELLA apps engages children in play-based activities in different contexts to provide meaningful opportunities to hear and use language. There are also many cultural elements included in the apps.

Below is a brief description of each app and some of the key words and phrases that children are introduced to.

App 1: *The Polyglots in the Playroom*

When exploring *The Polyglots in the Playroom*, children become familiar with language relating to greetings, introductions, farewells and expressing likes and dislikes.

Through engaging with App 1, children will begin to develop skills to:

- sing the 'Hello' song in French
- say some simple greetings in French. For example:

Bonjour!	Hello!
A bientôt!	See you later!
Allô!	Hello! (on the phone)

- introduce themselves in French. For example:

Je m'appelle (name)!	My name is (name)!
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App 2: *The Polyglots at the Beach*

The Polyglots at the Beach provides a playful environment and opportunities to explore the language of colours. While playing above and below the water, children are encouraged to interact with the language of colours, sea creatures and expressions of preference.

Through engaging with App 2, children will begin to develop skills to:

- name some colours in French. For example:

Bleu	Blue
Vert	Green
Orange	Orange
Rose	Pink
Rouge	Red
Jaune	Yellow

- express some likes and dislikes in French. For example:

Moi, j'aime le rouge!	I like red!
Moi, je n'aime pas le jaune!	I don't like yellow!

App 3: *The Polyglots at the Birthday Party*

The Polyglots at the Birthday Party is an opportunity to explore the language of numbers through counting candles, singing songs, making cakes and saying how old children are.

Through engaging with App 3, children will begin to develop skills to:

- count to ten in French

Un	One
Deux	Two
Trois	Three
Quatre	Four
Cinq	Five
Six	Six
Sept	Seven
Huit	Eight
Neuf	Nine
Dix	Ten

- say how old they are in French. For example:

J'ai (age) ans.	I am (age).
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- say happy birthday in French

Joyeux anniversaire!	Happy birthday!
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App 4: *The Polyglots at the Zoo*

The Polyglots at the Zoo features animals in an open-range zoo and introduces children to words for foods and drinks, and phrases for being able to say they are hungry and thirsty, for asking politely and saying thank you.

Through engaging with App 4, children will begin to develop skills to:

- name some fruits in French. For example:

La pomme	Apple
La banane	Banana
L'orange	Orange
La fraise	Strawberry

- say I'm hungry/thirsty in French

J'ai faim!	I'm hungry!
J'ai soif!	I'm thirsty!

- say thank you in French

Merci!	Thank you!
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- make simple requests in French. For example:

Je voudrais du jus!	I'd like some juice!
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App 5: *The Polyglots at the Circus*

The Polyglots at the Circus takes children to the magical space of a circus, providing them with the opportunity to experience language related to parts of the body.

Through engaging with App 5, children will begin to develop skills to:

- name some body parts in French. For example:

La tête	Head
Le bras	Arm
La jambe	Leg
Le pied	Foot

- say some parts of the face in French. For example:

L'œil	Eye
L'oreille	Ear
La bouche	Mouth
Le nez	Nose

- say something hurts in French. For example:

J'ai mal à la tête!	My head hurts!
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- use some adjectives in French. For example:

Grand	Big
Petit	Small

App 6: *The Polyglots at the Park*

The Polyglots at the Park features games and activities that encourage children to actively engage in learning verbs and adverbs relating to actions.

Through engaging with App 6, children will begin to develop skills to:

- respond to some simple instructions in French. For example:

Marchez!	Walk!
Dancez!	Dance!

- use some adverbs in French. For example:

Vite	Fast/quickly
Lentement	Slowly

App 7: *The Polyglots in the Town*

The Polyglots in the Town provides an opportunity for children to use familiar language developed through apps 1–6 in a range of experiences in the town.

Through engaging with App 7, children will begin to develop skills to:

- name some shapes in French. For example:

Un triangle	Triangle
Un carré	Square
Un cercle	Circle

- recognise the meaning of some words written in French

- say goodbye in French

Au revoir	Goodbye
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Connections with the Australian Curriculum for French

The ELLA apps provide an engaging and enjoyable resource to support children in the initial stages of learning French.

The statements below are taken from the Achievement Standards of the Australian Curriculum for French. They capture some of the elements that children will have learnt by the end of Year 2 – after three years of learning French at school.

The ELLA apps provide opportunities for children to engage with the following statements from the Australian Curriculum. Children's abilities and levels of achievement will be influenced by a range of factors.

- Children interact with educators and each other through action-related talk and play.
- Children exchange greetings such as *Bonjour! Comment ça va? Très bien, Merci.*
- Children make meaning using visual, non-verbal and contextual cues such as intonation, gestures and facial expressions.
- Children mimic French pronunciation, approximating vowel sounds and consonant combinations with some accuracy.
- Children identify key words in spoken texts, such as names of people, places or objects.
- Children use modelled examples and formulaic language to convey factual information at word and simple sentence level, such as making statements about themselves.
- Children identify ways in which spoken French sounds different to English and know that it uses the same alphabet when written.
- Children know that French is the language used in France and also in many other regions of the world.
- Children identify differences and similarities between their own and other's languages and cultures.

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