



Multilingual Children's Speech Development

FRENCH (Canadian)

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French (Canadian) Authors



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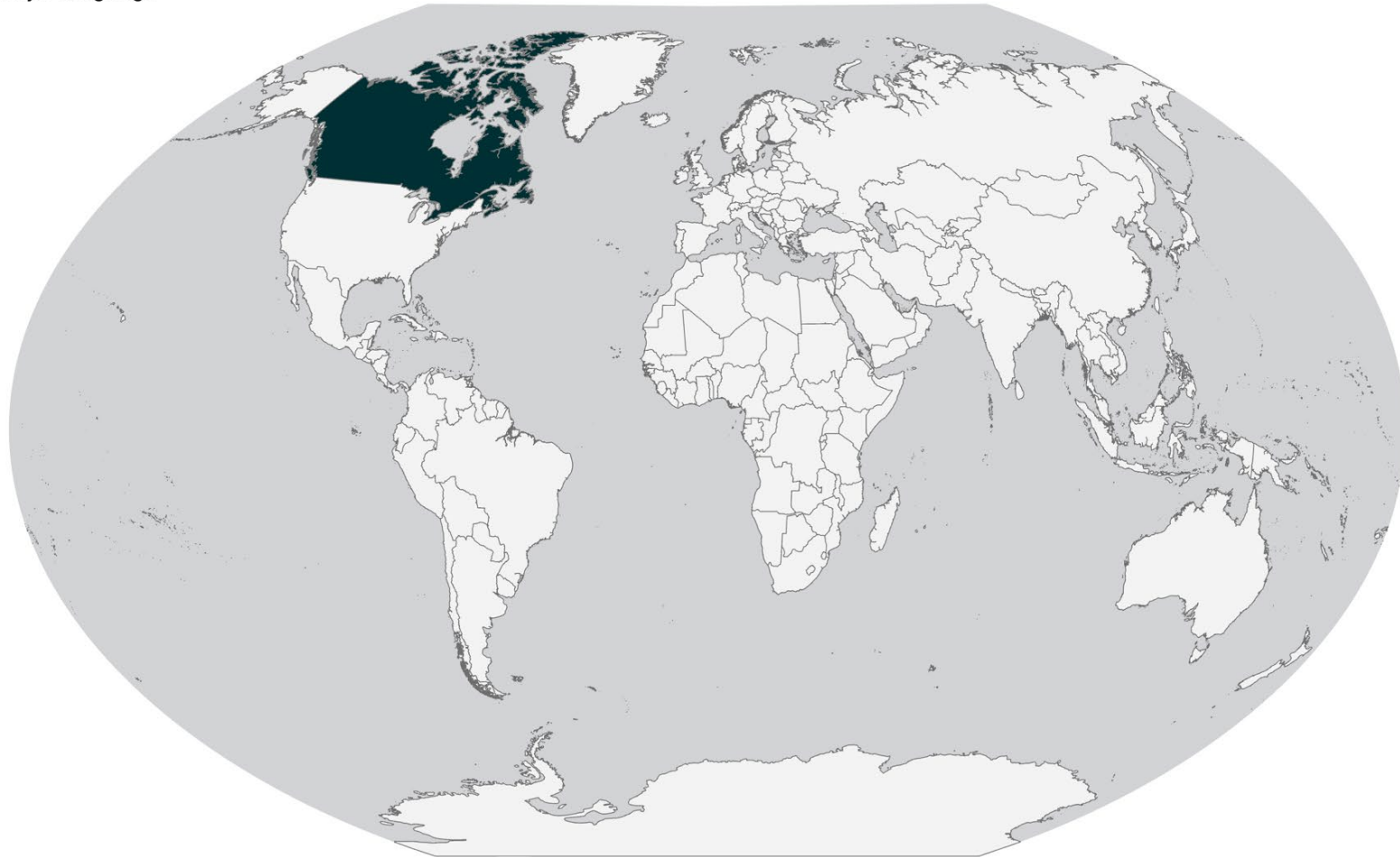
Source: MacLeod A. A. N., Bérubé, D., Rvachew, S., & Brosseau-Lapré, F. (2025). French (Canadian) speech development. In S. McLeod (Ed.). *The Oxford handbook of speech development in languages of the world*. Oxford University Press.

French (Canadian)

- **Commonly spoken in**
 - Canada
- **Dialects and variants**
 - Laurentian or Québécois French, Acadian French, Manitoban French
- **Writing**
 - Left to right. Latin alphabet (Roman script)
 - Example: ***Comment allez-vous?***

French (Canadian) Map

■ Official / major language



The authors acknowledge assistance provided by the Spatial Data Analysis Network (SPAN) at Charles Sturt University, and in particular Craig Poynter, for his work creating this map. Figures/maps/imagery created using ESRI ArcGIS Pro 3.1 software and data contained within ESRI's Living Atlas.

French (Canadian) Speech Components

- **Consonants (20):** /p, b, t, d, k, g, f, v, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, ʁ, m, n, ɲ, l, w, j, ɥ/
- **Consonant clusters (many):** in both the onset and the coda of syllables in all word positions
- **Vowels (16):** /i, e, ε, a, y, ø, œ, u, o, ɔ, ɑ, ə, ě, œ̃, ã, õ, i, u, y, ε, œ, a/
 - AND allophonic laxing of front vowels (**lit** vs. **lire**; **lue** vs. **lute**)
 - AND allophonic diphthongs (**fleuve** vs. **fleur**; **fait** vs. **faire**)
- **Tones (0):** None
- **Phonotactic restrictions:** $C_{(0-3)}VC_{(0-3)}$, preference for open syllable words rather than closed syllable words
- **Prosody:** Syllable-timed language

French (Canadian) Age of Acquisition

■ Consonants

- **Early** /m, n, p, b, t, d, k, f, s, l/
- **Middle** /d, b, ɲ, ʁ, ɥ, j/
- **Late** /s, ʃ, l, z, ʒ/

■ Consonant clusters

- Many produced by age 4; still acquiring by 7;6

■ Vowels

- Accuracy increases with age

■ Tones

- Not applicable

French (Canadian) Speech Development

■ Percentage correct

- 3;6-3;11: consonants 90%
- 4;0-4;6: consonants 95% (MacLeod et al., 2011)

■ Intelligibility

- ICS* Mean = 4.22 ($SD = 0.46$) at 2;2-3;10 i.e., *usually-always* intelligible, (Bérubé et al., 2022)

■ Common phonological patterns

- Fronting, devoicing, stopping, cluster reduction, final consonant deletion

*ICS, Intelligibility in Context Scale (McLeod et al., 2012)

French (Canadian) Children with Speech Sound Disorders

■ Also called

- Un trouble des sons de la parole (TSP) → speech sound disorder
- Un trouble phonologique → phonological disorder
- Un trouble d'articulation → articulation disorder
- La dyspraxie verbale → childhood apraxia of speech
- La dysarthrie (développementale) → dysarthria

■ Singleton consonant errors:

- Decrease in proportion of substitutions with age from 70% at 3;0 to 30% at 4;0
- More substitutions (82%) than deletions (18%)
- Word length and stress impacts accuracy particularly for rhotics and fricatives (Bérubé et al., 2020)

■ Word initial consonant clusters

- More accurate in production of clusters than monolingual English-speaking peers
- Cluster accuracy strongly determined by word position (word internal > word-initial)
(Rvachew et al., 2014; Brosseau-Lapré & Rvachew, 2014; Rvachew & Brosseau-Lapré, 2014)

French (Canadian) Speech Assessments

- **Évaluation Sommaire de la Phonologie des enfants d'âge Préscolaire**
(ESPP, MacLeod et al., 2014)
- **Test de Phonologie du Français Canadien**
(TPFC, Bérubé et al., 2013)
 - **AND Test de Phonologie du Français Canadien – Dépistage**
(TPFC-D; Bérubé et al., 2015)
- **Test de Dépistage Francophone de la Phonologie**
(TDFP; Rvachew et al., 2013)

All are open access!

French (Canadian) Speech Interventions

- **Auditory discrimination**
- **Auditory bombardment**
- **Traditional articulation therapy**
- **Phonological awareness**

Reference

Book chapter

- MacLeod A. A. N., Bérubé, D., Rvachew, S., & Brosseau-Lapré, F. (2025). French (Canadian) speech development. In S. McLeod (Ed.). *The Oxford handbook of speech development in languages of the world*. Oxford University Press.

Presentation

- MacLeod A. A. N., Bérubé, D., Rvachew, S., & Brosseau-Lapré, F. (2024). *French (Canadian): Multilingual children's speech development*. Charles Sturt University, Australia.
<https://www.csu.edu.au/research/multilingual-speech/languages>

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