

French Language, Background and Methodology for Nursery and Early Years

INDEX	Page	French Nursery Audio CD Track Number
Sound system	2	1
Where is France?	7	
Name and Greetings	8	2
How are you?	9	3
Classroom language	10	4
Weather	12	5
Food background	14	
Food	15	
Terms of endearment	15	
Snack time	16	6
Numbers	19	7
Colours	22	8
Colour rhymes	23	
Colour activities	25	
Parts of the body	27	9
Commands for games	28	10
Songs	29	
Family	30	11
Days/months	31	12
Calendar of events	32	
Birthdays	33	13
Animals	36	14
House	39	15
Christmas	40	16
Appendices		
Traditional songs	43	
Madame Rouge	45	

Note: The Language contained in this section is for the staff. You are not expected to teach all of it to the children.

Thanks to Pauline Lafont and Julien Terrat for recording

FRENCH SOUNDS – A PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

CD Track 1

- **r** is rolled
rouge (red), gris (grey), marron (chestnut), vert (green), répétez (repeat)

- **j** is soft
je (I), bonjour (hello), jaune (yellow)

- **ge** and **gi** are soft, the same as **j**
Âge (age), rouge (red)

- **ga**, **go** and **gu** are hard
garçon (boy), gâteau (cake)

- **qu** is always **k**, not **kw**
quatre (four), quel âge (how old), qui (who)

- **h** – pronounce it as if it is not there
huit (eight), hot dog

- **ch** – pronounce as **sh**
chat (cat), chien (dog), chantez (sing)

- **-tion** – **see-oh**, not **sh**
station, attention

- **-sion** – **zee-oh**, not **sh**
télévision

- **ou** – mouth round, pure
ou (or), où (where), bonjour (hello), bouche (mouth) poule (hen)

- **u** – with mouth round say **ee**, short
salut (hi)

- final **-t** – usually silent
salut (hi), chat (cat), petit (small)
[exceptions - huit (eight), sept (seven)]

- final **-d** – usually silent
grand (large)

- final **-et** – sounds like **ay**
poulet (chicken)
- final **-er** – sounds like **ay**
dîner (dinner), déjeuner (lunch)
- final **-ez** – sounds like **ay**, e.g. plural commands
chantez (sing), écoutez (listen), regardez (look at, watch)
- **eu** – with mouth round, say **i** as in **pit**
couleur (colour), deux (two), yeux (eyes)
- final **-s** – usually silent, e.g. all plurals
deux chats (two cats), des chiens (some dogs), quatre ans (four years), gris (grey)
- final **-x** – usually silent
deux (two), yeux (eyes), cheveux (hair), Joyeux Noël (Happy Christmas)
[Exceptions – six (six), dix (ten)]

But sounds like **z** in: sixans, joyeuxanniversaire

- **i** – sounds like **ee**
six (six), dix (ten), gris (grey), petit (small)
- **au** – sounds like **o**
jaune
- **oi** – sounds like **wuh** or **wa**
trois (three), moi (me), toi (you), voilà (there you go), froid (cold), poisson (fish), au revoir (goodbye)
- **ui** – sounds like **wee**
huit (eight), bruit (noise)

ACCENTS

- **é (e acute)** always sounds like **ay**
Écoutez (listen), répétez (repeat), ma couleur préférée (my favourite colour)

- è, ê and ë sound like e as in bed
père, mère, tête, Noël
- unstressed e sounds more like i in bit
petit, levez-vous
- final e is silent but may affect the sounding of the previous vowel
petit, petite, grand, grande
- accents on a and i and u make no difference to the sound
a (has), à (at, to), ou (or), où (where)

NASALS

- -on, -om

Bon (good), bonjour (hello), mouton (sheep), onze (11), attention (attention), garçon (boy), comptez (count), combien (how much)

But bonne is not nasal (double n)

- -an and -en

dans (in), quatre ans (four years), grand (large), grande (large), dansez (dance), excellent, cent (100), attention

- -in, -oin, -ien, -ain

cinq (five), vingt (20), vin (wine), fin (end), coin (corner), bien (good, well), combien (how many), pain (bread), faim (hunger), main (hand), saint

- un (not une)

un (one), lundi (Monday), bruns (brown)

SEMI CONSONANTS

- ille [ee-yih]

fille (girl), famille (family), brille (shines)

- ouille [oo-ee]

grenouille (frog)

- eil, eille [ay-yi]

soleil (sun), oreille (ear), bouteille (bottle)

- ail, aille [eye-yi]

bataille (battle)

BACKGROUND

Where is France?

CONCEPTS

Country - Scotland, Britain, France

Distance and time

Island - need to cross water

Transport

VISUAL AIDS

globe, map, aerial picture of an island

pictures of coach, train, ferry plane

POSSIBLE LESSON

We live in Britain, which is a big island – look at aerial pictures

Point to the area in Scotland where your school/region is

How do you get to France? Talk about transport and time taken

By car – you could get there tomorrow

By bus, it takes a long time and you need to cross the sea on a ferry

By train – the train goes through a tunnel under the sea and you could get there tomorrow

By plane – the quickest way to get there – could be this afternoon/evening

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Tell the story of a trip to France and the children do actions

E.G. I drove to the bus station

then I got on the coach and fell asleep

then I got off the coach the next morning and walked to the train station

then I got the train and went through the tunnel to France

OR

I took the train to the airport and flew to France

then I went in a taxi to my hotel

OR

I drove a long way and spent the night in a hotel

then I took the ferry and I sailed across the sea to France

OR

I walked to the sea and I swam across to France!

Two action song such as Mulberry Bush

How can we go to France, go to France, go to France

How can we go to France? We can go by train.

This is the way we go by train, etc

NAME AND GREETINGS

CD Track 2

HELLO

bonjour	hello (to anyone)
salut	hi! (informal)
coucou	hello (to babies, or to attract attention)

POLITE FORMS

monsieur	to a man (use after bonjour or au revoir)
madame	to a lady
mademoiselle	to a young woman

GOODBYE

au revoir	goodbye
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NAME

je m'appelle ...	my name is ... (I am called)
et toi?	what about you?
comment tu t'appelles?	what's your name?

HOW ARE YOU?

CD Track 3

aujourd'hui	today
ça va?	how are you? (is it going)
oh, ça va	OK
oui, ça va	yes, OK
oui, ça va très bien	yes, very well
oui, très bien	yes, very well
et toi?	how about you? (and you)
comment ça va?	how are you? (how is it going)
moi, ça va.	I'm fine
pas mal	not bad
ça ne va pas	not well

CLASSROOM LANGUAGE

CD Track 4

commands in plural -ez [ay]

to more than 1 child

si'il vous plaît	please
taisez-vous	be quiet
écoutez	listen
regardez	look
réfléchissez	think
concentrez-vous	concentrate
parlez	speak
répétez [ray pay tay]	repeat
entrez (dans la salle)	go in/ come in
cherchez	look for
trouvez	find
accrochez vos manteaux	hang up your coats
changez de chaussures	change your shoes
mettez vos chaussures	put on your shoes
mettez vos chaussons	put on your indoor shoes/slippers
asseyez-vous	sit down
levez-vous	stand up
brossez-vous les dents	brush your teeth
lavez-vous les mains	wash your hands

EVERYDAY PHRASES

attention!	watch out! careful!
pardon!	sorry!
à tes souhaits! [ah tay sway]	bless you! (sneezing)
oh là!	oops!
oh là là!	oh dear!
aïe!	ouch!
tiens, voilà	here you are
merci	thanks
de rien	you're welcome
ah bon!	oh right
d'accord	OK
Times of day	

à table	it's snack time
à la maison	it's home time

What we're going to do

maintenant ... [man tin aw]	now
on va chanter	we're going to sing
on va écouter de la musique music	to listen to some
on va faire de la peinture	to do some painting
on va jouer	to play
on va faire un jeu	to play a game
on va apprendre une comptine	to learn a rhyme
on va danser	to dance
on va jouer dehors	to play outside
on va se promener	to go for a walk

PRAISE

bravo!

excellent [ek sayl aw]

très bien!

very good NB bon isn't for praising

tant pis! [taw pee]

oh là là

too bad

oh dear

WEATHER

CD Track 5

CORE

quel temps fait-il aujourd'hui? what's the weather like today?
[kell taw fett ell oh joor dwee]

aujourd'hui [oh joor dwee] today

il fait beau [eel fay boh] it's good weather
il fait mauvais [eel fay moh vay] it's bad weather
il fait chaud [eel fay show] it's hot
il fait froid [eel fay frwa] it's cold
il fait du vent [eel fay doo vaw] it's windy
il fait soleil [eel fay doo soh ley] it's sunny

il pleut [eel pli] it is raining
il neige [eel nej] it's snowing

EXTRA

il y a du soleil [eeli ya doo soh lei] it is sunny
il y a des nuages [eeli ya day nooaj] it's cloudy
il y a de la neige [eeli ya di la nej] there's snow
il y a de la pluie [eeli ya di la plwee] it's rainy
il y a du tonnerre [eeli ya doo tonn err] here's thunder
il y a des éclairs [eeli ya daze aylerr] there's lightning

le soleil brille the sun is shining
[li soh ley bree]

Weather ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN
do as part of daily routine

have a weather clock
for il fait beau il fait mauvais

mime
hot/ cold/ sunny/ snowy/

chaud/ froid/ soleil/ neige

SONGS

(variation on traditional song)

il pleut, il mouille it's raining, it is wet
c'est la fête à la grenouille it's fun for frogs
il fait beau, il fait du vent it's nice, it's windy
c'est la fête au cerf-volant it's time for kites

(from les petits lascars bleu)

Tombe, tombe, tombe la pluie the rain is falling
Tout le monde est à l'abri everyone is sheltering
Y' a que mon petit frère only my little brother
Qui est sous la gouttière who's in the gutter
Pêchant du poisson catching a fish
Pour toute la maison. for everyone

Escargot de Bourgogne snail from Burgundy
Montre-moi tes cornes show me your horns
Dis-moi si demain il fera beau. tell me if it will be nice tomorrow

Food

background

meals

breakfast - cereal, yogurt, bread, jam, Nutella, croissants, orange juice, fruit, hot chocolate or milky coffee served in a “bol”

lunch - businesses and schools stop for 2 hours at lunch, time for a proper sit down meal at home or in a restaurant or canteen meal includes bread, water, often a glass of wine, salad

goûter - when children get home from school they have a snack typically of bread and nutella and a drink

dinner - a cooked meal at about 7.30 or 8

The French tend not to snack between meals! They still cook from fresh ingredients. Men also are quite capable of throwing together a cooked meal!

French bread is baked fresh twice a day. It goes stale very quickly

.

The standard French loaf is a baguette. (a stick). You see children nibbling from the end as they take it home.

a “tartine” is a piece, an oval slice spread on 1 side

a “sandwich” is not a triangle of soft bread but a baguette split lengthwise

You can buy pancakes (crêpes) and waffles (gaufres) at stalls. They are cooked in front of you.

Food (see also snack time)

à table!	snack time (come and sit down)
bon appétit!	enjoy
t'en veux?	do you want some?
tu veux goûter?	do you want a taste?
c'est bon!	it's good
oui, s'il te plaît	yes please
non, merci	no thanks
de rien	you're welcome
passe-moi	pass me
... ou ...?	or

Terms of Endearment

pour filles et garçons: - for boys and girls

mon ange	my angel
ma puce	my flea
mon poussin	my chick
mon chaton	my kitten
mes anges [may zawj]	my angels

pour les garçons: -	for boys
mon bonhomme	my lad
mes bonhommes	my lads

pour les filles: -	for girls
ma princesse	my princess
ma belle	my beauty
ma jolie	my pretty
ma poupée	my doll
mes poupées	my dolls

FOOD LANGUAGE

Snack Time

CD Track 6

polite language

à table	said to call people to the table,
snack time!	

bon appétit	said at the start of a meal, or when
you see s.o. eating	
voilà	here you are
merci	thank you
de rien	you're welcome
je voudrais	I would like
s'il te plaît	please (to one person)
s'il vous plaît	please (to more than one person)
miam miam!	yum yum
c'est bon!	it's good
t'en veux? [taw vi?]	do you want some?
un seul / une seule	just one
un petit peu	just a little
t'as mis ta carte dans la boîte?	did you post your card?
[ta mee ta cart daw la bwat?]	
t'as faim?	are you (1 child) hungry?
vous avez faim?	are you (plural) hungry?
(moi) j'ai faim	I'm hungry
t'as soif?	are you (1 child) thirsty?
servez-vous	help yourselves

	snacks
il y a [eel eeya]	there is / are
un gâteau	a cake
du gâteau	some cake
un biscuit	a biscuit
des chips	crisps
à boire	to drink
... ou ...?	or
du lait milk	
de l'eau	water
du jus d'orange [joo]	orange juice
du jus de pomme	apple juice
du sirop [doo see roh]	sweet diluting juice
des pâtes [pat]	pasta
des spaghettis	spaghetti
de la pizza	pizza
des haricots [day ari coh]	beans
du pain grillé [pi gree ay]	toast
du jambon	gammon, ham
du poulet	chicken
du fromage	cheese

un hot-dog [ott dog]	hot-dog
un hamburger [awboorger]	hamburger
un croque-monsieur	cheese and gammon toastie
une tartine de confiture	a slice of French bread and jam
un sandwich [sawdweesh]	sandwich (a long one!)

des fruits [frwee]	fruit
un fruit [frwee]	a piece of fruit
NB fruits ending in -e are feminine - une, la, de la	
du raisin	grapes
un raisin sec	a raisin
une pomme	an apple
de la pomme	some apple
un morceau de pomme [morsoh]	a piece of apple
une banane	a banana
une orange	an orange
une pêche	a peach
un ananas	a pineapple
du melon	some melon
une fraise	a strawberry
une framboise	a raspberry
une cerise	a cherry
du cassis	blackcurrants

NUMBERS

CD Track 7

CORE VOCAB pronunciation notes

un	nasal - don't really hear n
deux	mouth round, [di] as in ditch
trois	oi is wa, roll r, s silent, [trwa]
quatre	(no kw in French) [katr] or [kat]
cinq	[sank]
six	mouth wide [sees] (rhymes with
peace)	
sept	p is silent, [set]
huit	mouth round to start then wide, ui is
wee, h	is silent [weet]
neuf	[nif]

dix
peace)

mouth wide, [dees] (rhymes with

combien?
combien de balles?
combien de briques?

how many? [co -byu?]
how many balls? [bal]
how many bricks? [breek]

comptez!
[co-tay]
comptez avec moi!

count (talking to more than 1 child)

count with me [mwa]

NUMBER ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

CONGA

un, deux, trois, conga with actions, marching

COUNTING aloud

HOW MANY

(marbles) in my hand? combien? (de billes [bee])

CHINESE WHISPERS at circle time

SONGS

CD Track 7

1-5 from French Start

Un deux trois quatre cinq (x3)

Ça y est! [sa ee ay]

1 - 10 from Frère Jacques (ELC)

Comptons jusqu'à dix [co to jus ka dees]

un, etc

Un kilomètre à pied (traditional)

Un kilomètre à pied, ça use, ça use walking 1 km wears out your shoes

Un kilomètre à pied, ça use les souliers. start marching and singing brightly

Deux kilomètres à pied, ça use, ça use get slower and more tired as the km

Deux kilomètres à pied, ça use les souliers. increase

RHYMES COMPTINES

about dog

1, 2 deux grands yeux [di gron syi]

3, 4 quatre grandes pattes [cat grand pat]

5, 6 des poils lisses [des pwal lees]

7, 8 des fleurs détruites [day flir day-trweet]

9, 10 mon chien Alice [mo shee an alees]

action rhyme - fingers (or sing to 3 blind mice)

Un, deux, trois

Voici mes doigts

Quatre cinq six

J'en ai dix

Je les fais danser

Je les fais marcher

Je les fais frapper

Voici mes doigts.

HIDE THE THIMBLE

Hide a small object. Child(ren) look(s) for it as class chant numbers, chanting louder as they get nearer and quieter as go farther away.

for reference only

CD Track 7

onze	11	[o z]
douze	12	[dooz]
treize	13	[trez]
quatorze	14	[cat ors]
quinze	15	[canz]
seize	16	[sez]
dix-sept	17	[dees set]
dix-huit	18	[dees weet]
dix-neuf	19	[dees nif]
vingt	20	[van]
vingt et un	21	[van-tay uh]
vingt-deux	22	
vingt-trois	23	
vingt-quatre	24	
vingt-cinq	25	
vingt-six	26	
vingt-sept	27	
vingt-huit	28	[van-tweet]
vingt-neuf	29	
trente	30	

COLOURS

CD Track 8

core vocab

red	rouge	mouth round, roll r. soft g
yellow	jaune	soft j [jone]
green	vert	[ver] silent -t
blue	bleu	[bli]

orange	orange	[oh ra ge]
purple	violet	[vee oh lay] silent -t
pink	rose	[rose] roll r

brown	marron	[mar o] roll r, n o nasal
grey	gris	[gree] wide. silent -s
black	noir	[nwar] roll r
white	blanc	[blaw] nasal silent -c

c'est quelle couleur?
c'est rouge

EXTRA:-

AVOID

de quelle couleur est le or la ? Because the adjective would have to agree in gender.

GRAMMAR POINT

Those which sound different in feminine forms are

verte	une voiture verte	a green car
violette	une fleur violette	a purple flower
grise	une maison grise	a grey house
blanche	une robe blanche	a white dress

noire and bleue sound the same

the others don't change at all

Colour Rhymes

- based on an idea by Carol Nisbet

Have some props to support eg a yellow phone, a black car
There's a flashcard for Madame rouge in the Appendices

Madame Rouge is really huge
She loves to eat French bread.

That's the way to remember
That rouge means red.

Mademoiselle Jaune has a mobile phone
She loves chatting to her fellow.
That's the way to remember
That jaune means yellow.

Monsieur Bleu says atishoo
I think he's got the flu
That's the way to remember
That bleu means blue

Monsieur Vert has curly hair
He likes to keep it clean.
That's the way to remember
That vert means green

Madame Noir has a very fast car
Her dog sits in the back
That's the way to remember
That noir means black.

Madame Rose likes to wear nice clothes
She's pretty, don't you think?
That's the way to remember
That rose means pink.

Madame Violet likes to do ballet
She fell and now must hirple!
That's the way to remember
That violet means purple!

Monsieur Marron has a bow 'n' arrow
He tries to shoot tins down
That's the way to remember
That marron means brown.

Monsieur Blanc gets up at dawn
He slept all through the night
That's the way to remember
That blanc means white.

Colour Activities for Children

ASKING THE COLOUR OF AN OBJECT without naming the object. Use material to hand in nursery - bricks, cars, balls etc
c'est quelle couleur?

c'est rouge

GUESS THE COLOUR of a hidden object

FRUIT SALAD circle game using bricks
arc-en-ciel rainbow for all change

PARACHUTE games

FRENCH BOULES

use beach sets. Should be played on sand, gravel or grass.

COLOUR RHYMES (see separate sheet)

SONGS

c'est quelle couleur?

c'est quelle couleur? c'est quelle couleur? d bbb d bbb

c'est rouge, c'est rouge, c'est rouge. d b d a dg

c'est quelle couleur? c'est quelle couleur? d bbb d bbb

c'est rouge, c'est rouge, c'est rouge. d b d a dg

c'est bleu? c'est jaune? non! g c g c c

c'est rouge, c'est rouge, c'est rouge. d b d a dg

de quelle couleur est le tracteur? (French Start)

de quelle couleur est le tracteur, le tracteur, le tracteur?

de quelle couleur est le tracteur?

.....jaune

de quelle couleur est la voiture, la voiture, la voiture?

de quelle couleur est la voiture?

.....rouge (watch out for f form with voiture)

Chantez les couleurs (Salut Serge BBC Scotland)

Chantez, chantez , chantez

Chantez les couleurs

Jaune, vert, rouge

Orange et bleu.

1 Ta couleur préférée

La couleur, la couleur

qu'est-ce que c'est?

Ma couleur préférée,
ma couleur préférée,
C'est... c'est... , c'est ...
Jaune, jaune? jaune
C'est jaune
Oui c'estjaune

2 vert
3 rouge
4 orange
5 bleu

sing a rainbow

Rouge et jaune et rose et vert
Orange et violet, bleu
Je chante un arc-en-ciel
Un arc-en-ciel
Chantez avec moi!

PAINTING look at pictures (calendars are a good source) and try
to paint
in style of Matisse
or Water lilies by Monet
or dot painting (pointillism) in style of Seurat or Signac
or Sunflowers by Vincent van Gogh
or Picasso's blue period! (not French but they did live and paint
in France!)

PARTS OF THE BODY

CD Track 9

core vocabulary

la tête		head
le nez	[li nay]	nose
les yeux	[lay zyi]	eyes (but un œil an eye)
les oreilles	[lay zoroey]	ears
la bouche	[la bush]	mouth
les dents	[lay daw]	teeth
les cheveux	[lay shi vi]	hair
la langue	[la lawg]	tongue
les épaules	[lay zaypole]	shoulders (for song)
les genoux	[lay jinoo]	knees (for song)
les pieds	[lay pyay]	feet
la main	[la ma]	hand
le bras	[li bra]	arm
le dos	[li doh]	back
montrez-moi	show me	
touchez le nez		touch your nose

METHOD

don't teach all at once!! You don't need to teach them all anyway!

select 3 or 4 eg

start with parts of the face, the ones from song "head shoulders"

les yeux, les oreilles, la bouche, le nez

say and point, they join in

then montrez-moi show me or touchez le nez

next time add la tête, les épaules, les genoux, les pieds

then the song - go through doing actions without singing

play Jacques a dit [zhack a dee] (Simon says)

Jacques a dit (Simon says)

CD Track 10

touchez la tête	touch your head
touchez les épaules	touch your shoulders
touchez la jambe	touch your leg
levez le bras	raise your arm
montrez-moi	les dents show me your teeth

montrez-moi	trois doigts	show me 3 fingers
tirez la langue		stick out your tongue
croisez les bras		cross your arms
frappez les mains		clap your hands
frappez les pieds		stamp your feet
tapez les genoux		tap your knees
pliez les genoux		bend your knees
ouvrez la bouche		open your mouth
fermez les yeux		shut your eyes

COMMANDS FOR MOVING AROUND mix and match

circulez	move around	à reculons	backwards
marchez	walk au pas		in step (march)
courez	run vite		fast
sautez	jump sur place		on the spot
	plus lentement		more slowly
	à cloche-pied		on one foot (hop)
	sur la pointe des pieds		on tip toe
stop!	en avant		forwards

eg circulez
 courez
 courez sur place
 marchez au pas
 sautez trois fois -un deux, trois
 marchez à reculons
 en avant
 stop!

SONGS

Head shoulders knees and toes

La tête, les épaules, les genoux, et les pieds} bis
 Les yeux, les oreilles, la bouche, et le nez
 La tête, les épaules, les genoux, et les pieds.

v2 omit "la tête" etc

le Bouguee - bouguee Hokey cokey

actions

Je mets la main devant!	hand in
Je mets la main derrière!	hand out
Je mets la main devant	hand in
Et je tourne, tourne, tourne	turn around
Je fais le bouguee-bouguee	do the hokey cokey
Et je saute trois fois	jump 3 times

Et un pas sur le côté step to the left
Ooh! le bouquee - bouquee (3x) arms from aloft to
the floor, do 3 times
Pliez les genoux et un deux, trois bend knees and clap as
you count

Je mets le pied devant foot
la tête head
l'oreille ear
le corps body

Jean Petit

C'est Jean Petit qui danse 2x
Avec son doigt il danse2x
Avec son doigt, doigt, doigt.

2-Avec sa main il danse
3-Avec son bras etc

FAMILY

CD Track 11

la famille [famee]	family
le père	father
la mère	mother
le fils [fees]	son
la fille [fee]	daughter
le frère	brother
la sœur	sister
le bébé	baby (always masc!)

	a	the	my	your
M	un	le	mon	ton
F	une	la	ma	ta

eg

un frère, mon frère, ton frère

mon petit frère [moh pitee]	my wee brother
mon grand frère [moh graw]	my big brother
ma petite sœur [ma piteet]	my wee sister
ma grande sœur [ma grawd]	my big sister

papa	daddy
maman	mummy
mémé	granny
pépé	granpa

SONG (les petits lascars - bleu)

J'aime papa, j'aime maman,

Mon p'tit chat, mon p'tit chien, mon p'tit frère.

J'aime papa, j'aime maman,

Mon p'tit chat, mon p'tit chien et mon gros éléphant.

DAYS/MONTHS

CD Track 12

DAYS	always start with Monday, lundi	Small letter
lundi	Monday	
mardi	Tuesday	
mercredi	Wednesday	
jeudi	Thursday	
vendredi	Friday	
samedi	Saturday [sam-dee]	
dimanche	Sunday	

MONTHS	
janvier	[jo-vee-ay]
février	[fayv-ree-ay]
mars	[marss]
avril	[avreel]
mai	[may]
juin	[jwi]
juillet	[jwee-yay]
août	[oot]
septembre	[septobr]
octobre	[awk tawbr]
novembre	[noh-vo br]
décembre	[day-sobr]

EVENTS OF THE FRENCH YEAR

January

- 1 New Year's Day
6 Epiphany la fête des rois special cake (la galette)
containing a bean. Recipient of bean is king and wears a crown
chooses a queen or king who also wears a crown

February

- 2 Candlemas la Chandeleur - eat pancakes
14 St Valentine's

March

Carnaval dressing up, parades w. confetti and sweets
Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras eat beignets - doughnuts
grandmothers' day la fête des mamies (3/3/02)

April

- 1 April Fool's le poisson d'avril - stick fish on people's
backs
Easter Pâques - bells, bunnies, chicks
bells drop eggs in garden

May

- 1 May Day marches, but also lily of the valley for luck
Mother's Day la fête des mères last Sunday in May

June

Father's Day la fête des pères

July

- 14 Bastille Day street celebrations, fireworks,

September

school goes back after 2 months' summer holiday

October

grape harvest les vendanges

November

- 1 All Saints' Day la Toussaint - lay chrysanthemums on
relations' graves

December

- 6 St Nicolas sweets and St Nicolas biscuit
25 Christmas shoe instead of stocking
bûche de Noël - chocolate Yule log

other traditions

tooth fairy is a wee mouse - la petite souris

BIRTHDAYS

CD Track 13

CORE VOCAB

bon anniversaire	happy birthday
joyeux anniversaire	happy birthday
quel âge as-tu?	how old are you?
j'ai trois ans	I'm 3 (can't miss out "ans")
j'ai quatre ans	I'm 4
j'ai cinq ans	I'm 5
tu as trois ans, n'est-ce pas?	you're 3, aren't you?

EXTRA

le gâteau d'anniversaire	the birthday cake
un cadeau d'anniversaire	a birthday present
voici un petit cadeau pour toi!	here's a wee present for you.
comptez les bougies!	count the candles!

BACKGROUND

la fête	saint's day
la Sainte Catherine	St Catherine's day (25 November)
bonne fête	happy saint's day
des dragées	sugared almonds

WEB

www.chez.com/ceher/calendr/calendr.htm find your saint's day
<http://www.fete-enfants.com/index.html> in French but lovely activities for all "fêtes"

SONGS

Quel âge as-tu? (French start)
Quel âge as-tu?
Quel âge as-tu?
J'ai trois ans, j'ai trois ans, (or quatre ans or cinq ans)
J'ai trois ans maintenant. I'm 3 now

Joyeux anniversaire, joyeux anniversaire (happy birthday to you)
joyeux anniversaire, Julie, joyeux anniversaire.

GAMES

played like "I sent a letter" (French start)
J'ai un mouchoir, tra la la I've a hankie
J'ai un mouchoir, le voilà here it is

J'ai un mouchoir, venez voir	come and see
Mon petit mouchoir	my little hankie
Qui va recevoir	Who's going to get
Mon petit mouchoir?	my little hankie?
Qui va recevoir	
Mon petit mouchoir?	

also (traditional song)

Il court, il court le furet played like "I sent a letter to my love"

Il court, il court le furet The ferret runs

Le furet du bois, mesdames The ferret of the wood, ladies

Il court, il court le furet The ferret runs

Le furet du bois joli The ferret of the lovely wood

IL est passé par ici He came this way

Il repassera par là He will go that way

ACTIVITIES:

birthday ceremony in French with song, cake, games
comptez les bougies! count the candles

role play

practise giving and receiving presents or whatever

tiens, voilà here you are [tyi vwala]

merci thank you

craft

make a net of sweets, traditionally sugared almonds, given at weddings, christenings and saint's days

material:-

nylon net, elastic bands, ribbon, sweets eg jelly beans

ANIMALS

CD Track 14

les animaux [lay zanimo]

un chien	[shee yi]	dog
un chat	[sha]	cat
un lapin	[la pi]	rabbit
un âne	[ann]	donkey

un cheval	[shi val]	horse
une vache	[vash]	cow
un mouton	[moo toh]	sheep
un cochon	[coh shoh]	pig
une poule	[pool]	hen
un canard	[cann ar]	duck

un loup	[loo]	wolf
un tigre	[tee gri]	tiger
un lion	[lee oh]	lion
un serpent	[serr paw]	snake
une girafe	[jee raf]	giraffe

baby animals (bébé animaux)

un chiot	[shee oh]	puppy
un chaton	[shat oh]	kitten
un poussin	[poo si]	chick
un caneton	[can tow]	duckling

ANIMAL SOUNDS <http://www.bonjour.org.uk/animaux/bruits.htm>

Quel bruit fait le chien? [kell brwee] What sound does the dog make?

le chien fait oua oua [waa waa] The dog goes woof.

le chat fait miaou

la poule fait cot cot

le coq fait coco rico

le mouton fait bêêê

le cochon fait groin

la vache fait meuh

l'âne fait hihan

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

trouvez le chat/le chien find the cat/dog from a pile of toys

mime - faites comme un lapin be a rabbit
or just say un lapin

elimination game - when the music stops children assume the mime for one of 3 or 4 animals. Teacher chooses one, they win (ie are eliminated) and have to sit down

STORIES

I'm too big (bsmall publishing)

le vieux Mathurin (child's play)

le petit éléphant (27 day pack)

3 petits cochons (hyperstudio), le petit théâtre

Gigi la girafe (hyperstudio)

SONGS

baa baa, mouton noir

Baa baa mouton noir baa baa black sheep

As-tu de la laine?

Oui monsieur, oui monsieur,

Trois poches pleines 3 pocketfuls

Une pour mon maître,

et une pour madame

Une pour les enfants one for the children

Qui jouent au ratatam. who play the drums

mon père avait un âne

sung in a circle, holding hands and walking. "donkey" in middle, head down swinging arm like a pendulum. Arm stops on last "toi".

Person to whom it is pointing is the new "donkey". Animal can be changed.

mon père avait un âne my father had a donkey

qui semble à toi, who looks like you

semblable à toi similar to you

mon père avait un âne my father had a donkey

tout comme toi, tout comme toi just like you

oui, c'est bien toi yes just like you

une poule sur un mur

une poule sur un mur a hen on a wall

qui picote du pain dur pecking hard bread

picoti, picota

lève la queue lifts her tail
et saute en bas and jumps down

Il court, il court le furet

played like "I sent a letter to my love"

Il court, il court le furet	The ferret runs
Le furet du bois, mesdames	The ferret of the wood, ladies
Il court, il court le furet	The ferret runs
Le furet du bois joli	The ferret of the lovely wood
IL est passé par ici	He came this way
Il repassera par là	He will go that way

HOUSE

CD Track 15

la maison	house
chez moi	my house, at/to my house
chez toi	your house, at/to your house
chez Eric	Eric's house, at/to Eric's house

où est Eric?	where's Eric
chez lui	at/in his house
chez elle	at/in her house

le voici	here he is
la voici	here she is
le voilà	there he is
la voilà	there she is
ici	here
là	there

CHRISTMAS

CD Track 16

CORE VOCAB

Noël	Christmas
le père Noël	Santa
Joyeux Noël	Merry Christmas
la bûche de Noël	chocolate Yule log
le sapin de Noël	Christmas tree
la fête des rois	the feast of the kings (wise men) on
6th January	
la galette des rois	the special cake of the kings
le roi	the king
la reine	the queen
la fève	the porcelain bean in the cake
la couronne	crown

EXTRA

le renne	reindeer
le bonhomme de neige [li bonn om]	snowman
l'étoile [lay twal]	star
les cadeaux [lay cadoh]	presents
les jouets [joo ay]	toys
le train [tri]	train
la poupée [poo pay]	doll
le ballon [bal oh]	ball
le vélo	bike
la trottinette	scooter
le jeu	game
le jeu playstation/d'ordinateur	playstation/computer game
le puzzle	jigsaw
la voiture [vwu toor]	car
la voiture d'enfant	pram
la péeuuche [pi loosh]	cuddly toy
le chien en peluche	cuddly dog
le nounours [noo noors]	teddy
le chiot [shee oh]	puppy
le chaton [shat toh]	kitten

BACKGROUND

Main differences

You don't hang up your stocking you out your shoes by the fire or the tree
No crackers
Crib scene decoration (crèche)
Christmas cards less common. New Year cards sent in January to distant friends.
6th January or the Sunday thereafter - **la fête des rois** when **la galette des rois** containing a **fève** is eaten. The person finding the **fève** is the king **le roi** (or queen, **la reine**) and wears a crown and chooses a partner to be heir queen or king who also wears a crown, **la couronne**. (Epiphany)

SONGS

TRADITIONAL CAROLS

il est né le divin enfant
douce nuit, sainte nuit Still the night
mon beau sapin Christmas tree
petit papa Noël

RESOURCES

from European Schoolbooks

Video - the Christmas karaoké

WEB for French sites

<http://www.noeleternel.com/fr/chants.html> carols words and music

Other Christmas sites

<http://www.lafete.net/Noel/chalet/chalet.htm>

<http://www.fete-enfants.com/noel-enfants/noel-index.htm>

<http://www.fete-enfants.com/noel-enfants/chants-de-noel.htm> for words to carols and music – scroll to bottom of page

<http://www.fete-enfants.com/fete-rois-enfants/fete-rois-enfants.htm>

Epiphany, recipe for the *galette* cake

APPENDICES

1 traditional French songs

Un deux trois j'irai dans les bois

Un deux trois 1 2 3

J'irai dans les bois I will go to the woods

Quatre cinq six 4 5 6

Cueillir des cerises To pick cherries

Sept huit neuf 7 8 9

Dans mon panier neuf In my new basket

Dix onze douze 10 11 12

Elles seront toutes rouges They will all be red.

Un kilomètre à pied

Un kilomètre à pied, ça use, ça use walking 1 km wears out your shoes

Un kilomètre à pied, ça use les souliers. start marching and singing brightly

Deux kilomètres à pied, ça use, ça use get slower and more tired as the km

Deux kilomètres à pied, ça use les souliers. increase

Il court, il court le furet played like "I sent a letter to my love"

Il court, il court le furet The ferret runs

Le furet du bois, mesdames The ferret of the wood, ladies

Il court, il court le furet The ferret runs

Le furet du bois joli The ferret of the lovely wood

IL est passé par ici He came this way

Il repassera par là He will go that way

Frère Jacques

Frère Jacques Frère Jacques Brother James

Dormez-vous dormez-vous? Are you sleeping?

Sonnez les matines, sonnez les matines Ring the morning bells

Din, din dan, din din, dan. Ding, ding, dong

Sur le pont d'Avignon turn in a circle

Sur le pont d'Avignon On the bridge at Avignon

On y danse, on y danse We are dancing

Sur le pont d'Avignon

On y danse, tous en rond. In a circle

stop

1 Les belles dames font comme ça – The beautiful ladies do this (curtsy)

Et puis encore comme ça. - and this (curtsy)

2 Les beaux messieurs – The handsome men, etc (bow)

Appendix 2

Madame Rouge is really huge
She loves to eat French bread.
That's the way to remember
That rouge means red.



graphic by Anita Knapp