

# What's forte francité familioscolaire in ExogamEnglish?

by Glen Taylor

The key message in the preceding article is that we as exogamous parents can help our children become fluently bilingual and develop a well-balanced identity by using French as much as possible outside the francophone school. The term *forte francité familioscolaire* means that both family life and schooling contribute to children's French-language development.

Figure 1 in professor Landry's article, which we could call the *Counter-balance model of bilingual development*, shows how strongly the social and institutional spheres of everyday life—in other words, the many sectors of our predominantly English-speaking society — influence language acquisition. In fact, the impact is so strong that even if we spoke no English to our kids, they'd still become fluent in the language simply because they're surrounded by it.

Our challenge, then, is to create the necessary balance that helps our youngsters

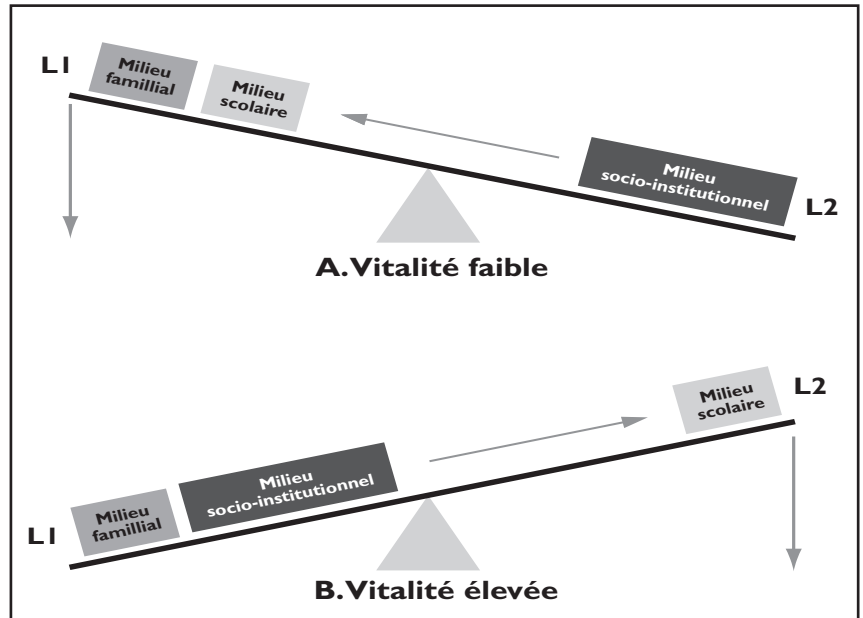


Figure 1

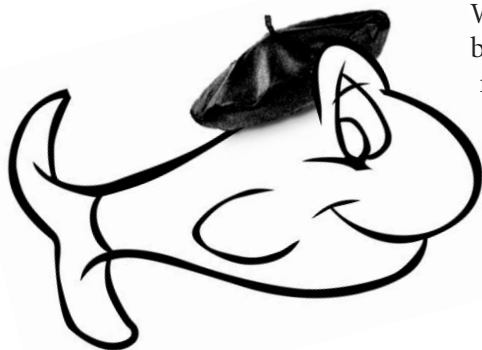
Modèle des balanciers compensateurs

realize their full linguistic and cultural potential in French as well. As Figure 1 shows, we can do this by counterbalancing the weight of English-speaking society with the combined weight of francophone education and a home setting that actively encourages the use of French.

Without the illustration (which is based on extensive research), one might think that home and school together would overcompensate

for society's influence. Not so! What we do, in fact, is simply level the playing field so our kids can acquire both languages and cultures. Professor Landry's article explains all this in much greater detail.

Now, to answer the question in the title: in *ExogamEnglish* (since we have our own label, why not have our own language, too?), *forte francité familioscolaire* translates into...



## FISH

That's right : FISH: French In School and Home. It's not as slippery a concept as you might think, either—it simply involves applying what research has shown to be what's best for our children!

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