Mandarin-English Summer Camp Fills Ahead of Schedule for 2026 as Richmond Families Seek Screen-Free Enrichment

September 22, 2026

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Morning Tree Language Centre filled its Mandarin-English summer camp programs ahead of schedule for 2026 as Richmond families seek screen-free enrichment activities for young children during the summer months.

Morning Tree Language Centre filled its Mandarin-English summer camp programs several weeks ahead of schedule for the 2026 summer season, with all available spots fully taken well before the start of the summer session. The Richmond-based language school, which offers Mandarin, French, and Spanish programs for children ages 3 to 12, attributed the early fill to growing demand from local families seeking play-based, screen-free enrichment activities during the summer break from regular schooling.

"We had families registering for summer camp as early as March this year, and the program was full by late spring," said Anita Fu, co-founder and Mandarin instructor at Morning Tree Language Centre. "The demand has grown every year since we started offering the camps, and 2026 was our earliest sell-out. Parents are looking for activities where their children can interact directly with instructors and peers rather than spending

more time in front of screens during the summer break from school. They appreciate that our program teaches language through play with music, movement, and hands-on activities rather than through worksheets or apps. Many families register their children for multiple weeks because they see real progress in their child's Mandarin comprehension and confidence after just one session."

The summer camp program uses a play-based curriculum with songs, stories, crafts, and games to teach Mandarin in a natural setting that mirrors how children acquire their first language. Instructors are native-speaking teachers who lead activities without relying on digital devices or screen-based instruction. The camps run weekly sessions through July and August, with both half-day and full-day options available for families with different schedules and budgets. Each week focuses on different themes such as animals, food, nature, and celebrations, allowing children to return for multiple weeks while encountering new vocabulary, songs, and activities each time they attend.

The centre operates from its location in Richmond's Garden City Centre, which is easily accessible from anywhere across Metro Vancouver via major routes. It serves families from Richmond, Vancouver, Burnaby, and Delta, areas with significant populations of families who speak Mandarin, Cantonese, or other languages at home and want their children to maintain that heritage while building fluency in additional languages. Founded in 2019 by Anita Fu and Cindy Xu, the centre offers year-round language programs including after-school clubs, parent-and-tot classes for toddlers as young as 18 months, and preschool language enrichment for children preparing for formal schooling. Class sizes are intentionally limited to maintain a low student-to-teacher ratio with native-speaking instructors who provide individualized attention to each child's learning pace and style.

During the school year, the centre offers Mandarin classes for various age groups using the same interactive methods used in its summer programs. Its French classes follow the same play-based approach with native-speaking instructors leading children through songs and hands-on projects that build vocabulary naturally through repetition and conversation. The centre also offers Cantonese classes for families who speak Cantonese at home and want their children to develop reading and writing skills alongside oral proficiency. Fall registration for regular classes, after-school clubs, and evening programs is now open through the centre's website, with class sizes limited to maintain the small-group learning environment.

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Morning Tree Language Centre

Originally a small Chinese school in Richmond, offering Cantonese and Mandarin, the centre now also provides French, English creative writing, a coding club, and seasonal camps. Ideal for ages 3 to 14, the programs use a fun and conversational approach.

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