Bilingual Education in Early Childhood Draws Enrollment Interest at Richmond Language Centre

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Morning Tree Language Centre supports early bilingual development through small-group programs in Mandarin, French, Cantonese and English at its Garden City Centre location.

Morning Tree Language Centre, a Richmond-based language school founded in 2019, now serves over 100 students across five languages as the fall 2026 term brings sustained interest in early childhood bilingual education. The centre, co-founded by Anita Fu and Cindy Xu, offers structured multilingual programs for children ages three to fourteen, including after-school language clubs, weekend classes, and parent-and-tot programs at its Garden City Road facility in the Garden City shopping district near Richmond Centre. Enrollment for the current term remains open as families continue to seek supplemental language education options for young children.

The school began as a small Mandarin and Cantonese program and has since expanded to offer instruction in five languages including Mandarin, Cantonese, French, English, and Spanish. Classes are designed for beginner and intermediate-level students and incorporate storytelling, music, crafts, and games in small-group settings led by native-speaking instructors. The centre provides both in-person instruction at its

physical location and online options for families outside the immediate Richmond area, with students attending from across Canada and internationally.

Research in developmental psychology has explored whether early bilingual exposure supports cognitive development in areas such as attention control and mental flexibility. While findings vary across individual studies, some researchers have observed advantages associated with early and consistent multilingual exposure, particularly in tasks that require switching between mental rules or filtering competing information. Anita Fu, co-founder and Mandarin instructor at Morning Tree Language Centre, said the school has observed growing parental interest in these connections, with more families asking about the developmental dimensions of language learning alongside the practical benefits.

"Families are increasingly looking at language programs as part of a broader approach to early childhood development, alongside music and physical activities," Fu said. "In our classrooms, children regularly switch between languages during activities, and we see them develop strong focus and adaptability in their learning. Parents often tell us they notice these skills carrying over into other areas of their child's education, from reading comprehension to problem-solving in math."

The centre's curriculum emphasizes conversational proficiency through small group instruction where each student receives individual attention from teachers who are native speakers of the language they instruct. After-school language clubs run on weekdays during the school term, covering Mandarin, Cantonese, French, and English in age-appropriate groups divided by skill level. Weekend classes offer additional flexibility for families with weekday scheduling constraints. Parent-and-tot programs introduce the youngest learners to language exposure through songs and interactive play in a supportive group setting, while seasonal camps during winter, spring, and summer breaks provide intensive language immersion in Mandarin and French for school-age children seeking concentrated practice.

Richmond's multicultural demographics have contributed to steady demand for structured language programs that extend beyond what conventional school language offerings provide. With a population where a significant portion of residents speak a non-English language at home, the city's families often seek programs that support heritage language maintenance while introducing additional languages. Morning Tree Language Centre continues to enroll new students for the fall term, with classes available in Mandarin, Cantonese, French, English, and Spanish through its Garden City Centre facility. Families can register online for the session that best fits their child's age and language goals, with class sizes limited to maintain small-group ratios.

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For more information about Morning Tree Language Centre, contact the company here:Morning Tree

Language CentreContact Details:(604) 285-5291morningtreelanguagecentre@gmail.com8040 Garden City Rd Unit 130, Richmond, BC V6Y 2N9

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.

Website: https://www.morningtreelanguagecentre.com/

Email: morningtreelanguagecentre@gmail.com

Phone: (604) 285-5291