



Two Moms, Four Languages: Play-Based Language Classes Gain Traction Among Richmond Families

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Morning Tree Language Centre offers multilingual play-based classes for children in Richmond.

Richmond families seeking early language education for their children have shown growing interest in play-based multilingual programs that introduce new languages through songs, games, and interactive play rather than traditional classroom instruction. The demand reflects a broader trend among Canadian parents who want their children exposed to multiple languages from an early age, particularly in communities like Richmond where linguistic diversity is a defining characteristic of the local population and more than half of residents speak a language other than English at home according to census data.

Morning Tree Language Centre, founded by two mothers in Richmond, offers play-based language classes for children in French, Mandarin, Spanish, and English. The program introduces vocabulary and pronunciation through music, movement, storytelling, and hands-on activities designed to make language acquisition feel natural for young learners. Classes are divided by age group, with separate sessions for toddlers with parents, preschoolers, and early elementary students, each tailored to the developmental stage of the children in the group. The centre has also begun exploring franchise opportunities to expand its model

to other communities in the Lower Mainland where demand for multilingual early childhood programming continues to grow.

"Children learn languages best when they do not feel like they are being taught," said Anita Fu, co-founder and Mandarin instructor at Morning Tree Language Centre. "Our classes use the same methods children use to learn their first language, through repetition, context, and play. A child might learn French animal names through a song with hand motions, or practice Mandarin numbers during a group counting game. The learning happens organically because they are engaged and having fun, not because they are memorizing vocabulary lists or sitting through formal lessons with textbooks and worksheets."

The founders continue to refine the curriculum based on family feedback and ongoing research in early childhood bilingual education. Class sizes are kept small to allow instructors to give individual attention to each child and ensure every participant has opportunities to practice speaking during each session. The curriculum is designed by experienced language educators and incorporates research on early childhood bilingual development, which consistently shows that children exposed to multiple languages before age seven develop greater cognitive flexibility, improved problem-solving skills, and enhanced metalinguistic awareness compared to monolingual peers of the same age group. Parents receive regular progress updates and suggestions for reinforcing language skills at home.

Richmond is one of the most linguistically diverse communities in Canada, with over 60 percent of residents speaking a language other than English at home, making it an ideal location for multilingual children's programming. This environment has created strong demand for language programs that help families maintain heritage languages while introducing new ones, particularly among families where parents speak different languages and want their children to be fluent in both for cultural and practical reasons like communicating with extended family members.

Morning Tree Language Centre is located in Richmond and serves families from across Metro Vancouver. Registration for upcoming sessions is available through the centre's website.

Founded in 2019, the centre has grown steadily through word-of-mouth referrals from families who value the immersive, play-based approach as an alternative to traditional classroom instruction for young children. The centre offers language instruction in French, Mandarin, Spanish, and English, serving children ages three to twelve through a play-based curriculum designed by native-speaking instructors.

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

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

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