Motivating Boys in French Immersion

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My final project will be a PowerPoint presentation on the topic of boys in junior high French Immersion: motivation and attrition. This presentation will be aimed at educators and administrators who are concerned about attrition of boys in the French Immersion program. For the past five years I have sought advice on this subject from colleagues and administrators only to find that they were searching for these answers as well. This problem is recognized throughout immersion programs across Canada. I will begin by presenting at the RSA day for school districts 5 and 6 in my region, and then look for opportunities out of region such as the ACPI conference and professional development conferences in Calgary, AB.

As I research I am finding theories that explain why boys are struggling and why we see such attrition at the junior high level. I plan to present classroom strategies that will afford boys a learning atmosphere in which they can find enjoyment and success in their language learning. I believe that such a presentation would be a popular and much welcomed addition to professional development workshops and language teacher conferences.

The presentation will begin with Csikszentmihalyi’s theory on intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. I will discuss strategies in reading, writing, speaking, and general classroom structures that are likely to be more appealing to boys, based on my research. For use in my professional context, the presentation will be a PowerPoint with a verbal presentation, activities, and examples. I plan to include an appendix of reading material that I believe to be appealing to boys in French immersion. Groundwork for this list began in an action research proposal for LLED 523.

References

Csikszentmihalyi, M. (1990). Literacy and intrinsic motivation. *Daedalus*, *119*, 115-140. Retrieved from https://msu.edu~dwong/CEP991/CEP991Resources/Csikszentmihalyi-Lit&Mot.pdf