

The Accelerative Integrated Methodology



This exciting, hybrid program for the teaching of a foreign language is based on different, newly gained insights in Applied Linguistics and Cognitive Psychology. The extensive and creative use of story and drama, the use of gestures and the unique way of selecting and introducing language items provide foreign language teachers with opportunities to both motivate and engage students. It offers authentic means for not only developing the fluency levels of their students beyond what has been usually experienced, but also ensures that students respond personally

and creatively. AIM enables teachers to increase students' confidence and proficiency in order to be able to interact spontaneously in authentic tasks.

AIM is effective because it uses all human channels available to learn language: kinesthetic, oral, aural, visual, emotional. The result is holistic learning at its finest and the students feel the difference.

"If I had to choose one thing that distinguishes AIM from the more typical [second language] classrooms it's the level of emotional investment that kids have in the process and the fun that they are having. AIM ...gets kids involved, they are reading stories... acting out stories, they are becoming involved. They see themselves in the stories. They are having fun with the stories and they are also able to be creative with the language at a much earlier stage."

"The AIM learners are more proficient in both spoken and written French. Moreover, they like their lessons better!"

The AIM-program is available for French, English, Spanish, Mandarin and Japanese as a foreign language.

J'AIMe parler français



As the AIM program did not have sufficient content to prepare for the final exams in Dutch pre-university education, researchers from the University of Groningen and teachers from a secondary school in Groningen joined forces and developed an extended version of the AIM-methodology, called AIMe. This

methodology is the backbone of the program *J'AIMe parler français* which is a predominantly implicit program using online learning systems and foreign language magazines amongst others to facilitate a large amount of exposure to the language and provides lesson activities with a main focus on oral and written skills to facilitate language use. It builds upon the high levels of language production, achieved by the AIM-program but expands it to a level that is needed for the final exams in the Netherlands: B2 for Reading and Listening, B1+ for oral skills and B1 for written skills.

The AIMe-methodology can be used for most foreign languages as a follow-up on existing methods (starting level A2) provided that target language use was an essential part of this existing method. The program *J'AIMe parler français* is available for French.



AIM is developed by Wendy Maxwell and her team in Canada who offer online teacher training. www.aimlanguagelearning.com



AIM teacher training and support is provided by Janny Spreen at the Free University of Amsterdam: <https://learnacademy.vu.nl> (search for AIM).



The extended version of AIM (AIMe) is developed by Audrey Rousse-Malpat and Wim Gombert who offer teacher training and support for the use of this methodology. www.projectfrench.eu. This website is in Dutch but will be available in French soon.