



COLÉGIO
LUSO-SUÍÇO

Introduction to the Chinese Language

Mandarin Introduction Project for Pre-School Education

Children aged 4 to 5

School Year 2026/2027

Colégio Luso-Suíço

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Context

This plan is intended for children aged between 4 and 5, with a weekly timetable of 30 minutes throughout the school year (September to June), totalling approximately 35 to 40 lessons.

Given the limited timetable and the age of the pupils, the main objective is not fluency, but rather exposure to the language, familiarisation with its sounds and the development of a positive attitude towards Mandarin.

Objectives

By the end of the school year, pupils should be able to:

- Recognise basic sounds of Mandarin;
- Understand simple instructions;
- Reproduce words and short expressions;
- Associate language learning with positive experiences.

Lesson Structure

Each lesson will be organised as follows:

- 5 minutes - Initial routine (song and review);
- 10 minutes - Introduction of new content;
- 10 minutes - Playful activity or game;
- 5 minutes - Closing (story or song).

Content Progression

Content progression is flexible and based on continuous repetition and gradual consolidation, favouring frequent exposure to simple structures and vocabulary rather than the introduction of a large amount of new content.

September - October

Theme: routines, identity and language awareness

- Greetings and basic expressions for social interaction;
- Personal identification;
- Introduction to basic numerical and colour vocabulary;
- Development of phonetic awareness of the language.

November - December

Theme: the human body

- Vocabulary related to the human body;
- Consolidation of previously introduced content;
- Gradual expansion of numerical vocabulary.

January - February

Theme: animals

- Vocabulary related to common animals;
- Association between sound and meaning;
- Simple linguistic structures for identification.

March - April

Theme: food

- Vocabulary related to food and drinks;
- Expression of preferences;
- Reinforcement and consolidation of previous content.

May - June

Theme: review and overall consolidation

- Systematic review of all vocabulary covered;
- Lexical and communicative integration activities;
- Guided oral production of simple structures;
- Final consolidation of learning from the school year.

Methodology

The pedagogical approach is based on the following principles:

- Frequent and consistent repetition;
- Multisensory learning (movement, music, images);
- Use of structured routines;
- Emphasis on playful and interactive activities.

Pedagogical Strategies

- Songs with gestures;
- Repetition games (echo);
- Movement activities;
- Use of illustrated cards.

Final Considerations

Given the age of the pupils and the limited timetable, the acquisition of formal reading or writing skills in Mandarin is not expected. The focus is on developing oral expression, comprehension and interest in the language.

The success of this programme will be measured by pupils' active participation, their ability to recognise and reproduce basic vocabulary, and the enthusiasm demonstrated throughout the lessons.