

NORTHERN MICHIF PRONUNCIATION ALPHABET

Teacher Guide

The Northern Michif Alphabet & Sound Guide is designed to work alphabetically while highlighting how diacritics and unique Northern Michif pronunciation features affect letter sounds. The poster supports vocabulary development, sound recognition, and familiarity with Northern Michif through repeated linguistic and visual learning that is accessible for early learners.

By exploring letter sounds, diacritics, and vocabulary together, students begin building the skills needed to recognize, read, sound out, and speak Northern Michif words. Organizing the resource alphabetically and separating the letters into a Frequent Sounds group and a Northern Michif Specific Letters group provides a structured and accessible way for young learners to engage with the language and develop foundational literacy and linguistic skills. The Frequent Sounds section introduces letters where the pronunciation is generally familiar and commonly encountered, providing an approachable starting point for early learners. The Northern Michif Specific Letters section highlights letters, diacritics, and pronunciation features that are unique to the language or may be less familiar to learners. Presenting these separately allows teachers to intentionally introduce these sounds as students build confidence while emphasizing that each plays an important role in accurately reading and speaking Northern Michif.

Designed to remain displayed throughout the school year, the poster can become a consistent point of reference during daily language learning. Teachers may use it to introduce new letters and sounds, revisit previously learned vocabulary, model pronunciation, or encourage students to locate familiar sounds within new Northern Michif words. It can also support storytelling, songs, shared reading, games, classroom discussions, and thematic vocabulary lessons. Educators may expand upon the resource by creating sound-matching activities, or lessons that focus on specific sounds, vocabulary, or pronunciation patterns.

Early and repeated exposure to all Northern Michif letter sounds helps establish authentic pronunciation and lays the foundation for future language learning. Rather than relying on English translations, the accompanying illustrations encourage students to make direct connections between Northern Michif words and their meanings. This immersive approach supports vocabulary development by helping learner's associate words with real objects, animals, and concepts in a way that reflects how children naturally acquire language.

The poster serves as a foundational classroom resource, supporting educators as they introduce Northern Michif through meaningful, everyday learning experiences. By providing consistent visual and linguistic exposure, it helps lay the groundwork for students to begin a lifelong journey of learning, speaking, and connecting with their Métis language and culture.

