

## LONDON PARENTS' GUIDE

I was impressed by the high standard of French spoken by pupils at Le Club Petit Pierrot. These young linguists rarely lapsed into English and they all spoke with impeccable accents. This is not surprising as Stella Bataille and her assistant, Elsa, have a great deal of experience in teaching young children. Stella's secret lies in knowing how to captivate the children's minds. She has devised a fun routine for the beginning of the class, involving puppets and role play, which the children become familiar with very quickly. Consolidating

the same basic vocabulary at the beginning of every class helps to build up their confidence for tackling new subjects later on. Moreover the classes are conducted totally in French, the *immersion method*. The lessons are structured around a diversity of themes which are practical and interesting. In her view there are three benefits of starting French at a young age: "They will like speaking the language, they will acquire a good accent and if they keep it up they will become fluent."