

Year 2015

Tamil Language Syllabus

Lakshmi Tamil Learning Center



லட்சுமி தமிழ் பயிலும் மையம்

Lakshmi Tamil Learning Center
Atlanta, Georgia, USA

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Syllabus

1 Overview

Our syllabus has been framed to impart Tamil language skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing to the children of Tamil immigrants in the Greater Atlanta region. This would provide the learners a good opportunity to get a glimpse of the culture and history of Tamilnadu.

Montessori method is adopted for beginner classes to make children grasp the basic skills. For higher classes, emphasis is placed on cognitive learning through a variety of presentations like prose, poetry, drama, and grammar.

Singapore curriculum is followed for grades 1 to 10 and our custom made material for beginner level. In addition, select lessons, stories, and exercises from Tamil Virtual University, Tamilnadu Government Textbooks, and other resources on the web as appropriate, are also taught. In tune with modern times, computer based teaching is also done.

An academic year consists of nearly 32 classes, divided into two semesters. Classes are held on weekends and each session runs about 75 minutes.

2 Course Outline

2.1 Primary (Beginner Level to Grade 6)

Course Outline - Primary (Beginner Level to Grade 6)								
S.No.	Topic	Beginner	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
1.	All letters - Vowels, consonants, and vada mozhi letters (எழுத்துகள் - உயிர், ஆய்தம், வல்லின / மெல்லின / இடையின வரிசை, வடமொழி எழுத்துகள்)	✓						
2.	Reading simple words and sentences using the letters learned at every stage (ஒவ்வொரு நிலையிலும் கற்ற எழுத்துக்களைப் பயன்படுத்தி எளிய சொற்களையும், வாக்கியங்களையும் வாசித்தல்)	✓						
3.	Vocabulary improvement through PowerPoint presentations (ஒளிக்காட்டல்கள் மூலம் சொல்வளம் பெருக்குதல்)	✓						
4.	Numbers (எண்கள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.	Colors (நிறங்கள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6.	Good habits (நல் வழக்கங்கள்)	✓	✓	✓				
7.	Body parts (உடல் உறுப்புக்கள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
8.	Family / Relationships (குடும்பம் / உறவுகள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9.	Names of vegetables, fruits, and flowers (காய்கறிகள், பழங்கள், பூக்களின் பெயர்கள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Course Outline - Primary (Beginner Level to Grade 6)

S.No.	Topic	Beginner	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
10.	Names of animals, birds and insects (விலங்குகள், பறவைகள், பூச்சிகளின் பெயர்கள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
11.	Commonly used words related to nature, house and school (இயற்கை, வீடு, பள்ளி சம்பந்தமான, அன்றாட உபயோகத்தில் உள்ள சொற்கள்)	✓	✓	✓				
12.	Action and command words (செயல் / கட்டளைச் சொற்கள்)	✓	✓					
13.	Question words (கேள்விச்சொற்கள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
14.	Opposites (எதிர்ச்சொற்கள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
15.	Gender (ஆண்பால் / பெண்பால்)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
16.	Short / Long sounds (குறில் / நெடில்)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
17.	Singular / Plural (ஒருமை / பன்மை)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18.	Sentence formation (வாக்கியம் உருவாக்குதல்)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
19.	Tenses (காலங்கள்)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20.	Directions (திசைகள்)		✓					
21.	Sounds of animals and birds (விலங்குகள், பறவைகளின் ஒலிகள்)		✓	✓	✓			
22.	Case suffixes (வேற்றுமை உருபுகள்)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23.	Days of week (கிழமைகள்)			✓	✓	✓	✓	
24.	Names of Tamil months (தமிழ் மாதங்கள்)			✓	✓			
25.	Tastes (சுவைகள்)			✓	✓	✓	✓	

Course Outline - Primary (Beginner Level to Grade 6)

S.No.	Topic	Beginner	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
26.	Use of 'down', 'up', 'in', 'out', 'in front of', and 'behind' ('கீழே', 'மேலே', 'உள்ளே', 'வெளியே', 'முன்னால்', 'பின்னால்')			✓	✓	✓	✓	
27.	Words that almost sound the same / Minimal pair (ஒலி வேறுபாட்டுச் சொற்கள் - ர/ற, ன/ண, ல/ள/ழ)			✓	✓	✓	✓	
28.	Noun, Pronoun and Verb (பெயர்ச்சொல், சுட்டுப்பெயர், வினைச்சொல்)				✓	✓	✓	
29.	Adjectives / Adverbs (பெயரடை மொழி / வினையடை மொழி)				✓	✓	✓	✓
30.	Negative commands (எதிர்மறைக் கட்டளைகள்)				✓	✓	✓	
31.	Use of 'yes', 'no', 'but', 'therefore' and 'because' ('ஆம்', 'இல்லை', 'ஆனால்', 'அதனால்', 'ஏனென்றால்')				✓	✓	✓	
32.	Conjunction ('உம்')				✓	✓	✓	
33.	Comparison ('விட')				✓	✓	✓	
34.	Ideophone (இரட்டைக்கிளவி)				✓	✓	✓	✓
35.	Punctuation (நிறுத்தற்குறிகள்)				✓	✓	✓	✓
36.	Verbal nouns (தொழிற்பெயர்கள்)				✓	✓	✓	
37.	Young ones of animals and birds (விலங்குகள், பறவைகளின் இளமைப் பெயர்கள்)					✓	✓	
38.	Synonym (ஒரு பொருள் / பல சொற்கள்)					✓	✓	✓
39.	Homonym (ஒரு சொல் / பல					✓	✓	✓

Course Outline - Primary (Beginner Level to Grade 6)

S.No.	Topic	Beginner	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
	பொருள்)							
40.	Adjectival and verbal participles (பெயரெச்சம் / வினையெச்சம்)					✓	✓	✓
41.	Separating or joining words (சொற்களைப் பிரித்தல் / இணைத்தல்)					✓	✓	✓
42.	Duplicated Words (அடுக்குத்தொடர்)					✓	✓	✓
43.	Similar to the use of a & an in English (ஒரு / ஓர் பயன்பாடு)						✓	✓
44.	Subject, Predicate and Object (எழுவாய், பயனிலை, செயப்படு பொருள்)						✓	✓
45.	Incomplete action verbs (எச்சவினை)							✓
46.	Joining sentences (வாக்கிய இணைப்பு)							✓
47.	Crossword puzzles (குறுக்கெழுத்துப் பயிற்சிகள்)							✓
48.	Rhymes (மழலைப்பாடல்கள்)	✓	✓					
49.	Bharathiyar Songs (பாரதியார் பாடல்கள்)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
50.	Athichudi (ஆத்திச்சூடி)	✓	✓	✓				
51.	Thirukkural (திருக்குறள்)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52.	Kondrai Vendhan (கொன்றை வேந்தன்)				✓	✓		
53.	Ulaga Needhi (உலக நீதி)				✓			
54.	Vetrivakkai (வெற்றிவேற்கை)					✓		
55.	Nalvazhi (நல்வழி)							✓

Course Outline - Primary (Beginner Level to Grade 6)

S.No.	Topic	Beginner	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
56.	Proverbs (பழமொழிகள்)					✓	✓	✓
57.	Simple conversations (எளிய உரையாடல்கள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58.	Speech topics (பேசுவதற்கான தலைப்புகள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59.	Story telling (கதை கூறுதல்)	✓	✓					
60.	Story reading (கதை வாசித்தல்)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61.	Reading comprehension (வாசிப்புக் கருத்தறிதல்)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62.	Essay writing (கட்டுரை எழுதுதல்)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63.	Letter writing (கடிதம் எழுதுதல்)					✓	✓	✓
64.	Reading / Speech competitions (வாசிப்பு / பேச்சுப் போட்டிகள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65.	Posters (காட்டியங்கள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66.	Cultural programs (கலை நிகழ்ச்சிகள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

2.2 Secondary (Grades 7 to 10)

Course Outline - Secondary (Grades 7 to 10)					
S.No.	Topic	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10
1.	Similar to the use of a & an in English (ஒரு / ஓர் பயன்பாடு)	✓			
2.	Words that almost sound the same / Minimal pair (ஒலி வேறுபாட்டுச் சொற்கள் - ர/ற, ன/ண, ல/ள/ழ)	✓	✓		
3.	Punctuation (நிறுத்தற்குறிகள்)	✓			
4.	Homonym (ஒரு சொல் / பல பொருள்)	✓	✓		
5.	Incomplete action verbs (எச்சவினை)	✓			
6.	Tenses (காலங்கள்)	✓	✓	✓	
7.	Subject, Predicate, Object (எழுவாய், பயனிலை, செயப்படு பொருள்)	✓	✓		
8.	Adjective / Adverbs (பெயரடை மொழி / வினையடை மொழி)	✓			
9.	Case suffixes (வேற்றுமை உருபுகள்)	✓	✓		
10.	Joining sentences (வாக்கிய இணைப்பு)				
11.	Ideophone (இரட்டைக்கிளவிகள்)	✓	✓	✓	
12.	Crossword puzzles (குறுக்கெழுத்துப் பயிற்சிகள்)	✓			

Course Outline - Secondary (Grades 7 to 10)

S.No.	Topic	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10
13.	One letter words (ஓரெழுத்து / ஒரு மொழி)	✓			
14.	Analogy (உவமைத்தொடர்கள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓
15.	Different classes of nouns (அறுவகைப் பெயர்கள்)	✓			
16.	1 st person, 2 nd person and 3 rd person (மூவிடப் பெயர்கள்)	✓	✓		
17.	Pronouns (பதிலிடு பெயர்கள்)	✓			
18.	Active voice / Passive voice (செய்வினை / செயப்பாட்டு வினை)	✓		✓	
19.	Sandhi Rules (வல்லொற்று மிகும் / மிகா இடங்கள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓
20.	Conjunctions (இணைப்புச் சொற்கள்)	✓			
21.	Explicit / Implicit finite verbs (தெரிநிலை வினைமுற்று / குறிப்பு வினைமுற்று)	✓			
22.	Idioms (மரபுத்தொடர்கள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓
23.	Rhyming compounds (இணைமொழிகள்)		✓	✓	✓
24.	Negative incomplete verbs (எதிர்மறைப் பெயெரச்சம் / எதிர்மறை வினையெச்சம்)		✓		
25.	Writing sentences differently without changing the meaning (கருத்து மாறா வாக்கியங்கள்)		✓	✓	✓
26.	Combination of words or Morphophonology (சொற்புணர்ச்சி)		✓	✓	✓

Course Outline - Secondary (Grades 7 to 10)

S.No.	Topic	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10
27.	Numbers/ Measurements (எண்ணுப்பெயர் / அளவைப்பெயர்)		✓		
28.	Appellative noun (வினையாலணையும் பெயர்)			✓	
29.	Words denoting the direct action of the doer / others (தன்வினை / பிறவினை)			✓	
30.	Expansion and truncation of case suffixes (வேற்றுமை விரி / தொகை)			✓	
31.	Sentence writing (வாக்கியம் அமைத்தல்)			✓	
32.	Complete verbs (கால நிறைவு)			✓	
33.	Expanding sentences (வாக்கிய விரிவு)				✓
34.	Changing sentences (வாக்கிய மாற்றம்)				✓
35.	Nalvazhi (நல்வழி)				
36.	Thirukkural (திருக்குறள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓
37.	Nanmanikkadigai (நான்மணிக்கடிகை)				✓
38.	Aranerichcharam (அறநெறிச்சாரம்)				✓
39.	Bharathidasan's poems (பாரதிதாசன் கவிதை)				✓
40.	Proverbs (பழமொழிகள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓
41.	Reading comprehension (வாசிப்புக் கருத்தறிதல்)	✓	✓	✓	✓
42.	Essay writing (கட்டுரை எழுதுதல்)	✓	✓	✓	✓
43.	Letter writing (கடிதம் எழுதுதல்)	✓	✓	✓	

Course Outline - Secondary (Grades 7 to 10)					
S.No.	Topic	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10
44.	Writing Reviews (மதிப்புரை எழுதுதல்)			✓	✓
45.	Story writing (கதை எழுதுதல்)				✓
46.	Reading / Speech competitions (வாசிப்பு / பேச்சுப் போட்டிகள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓
47.	Posters (காட்டியங்கள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓
48.	Cultural programs (கலை நிகழ்ச்சிகள்)	✓	✓	✓	✓

3 Learning Outcome

3.1 Primary (Beginner Level to Grade 6)

Learning Outcome - At the end of Grade 1			
Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
The students will understand pronunciation of letters, simple and compound words, commands, rhymes and stories.	The students will understand simple questions and commands and provide answers, look at pictures and objects and talk about them, speak on the given topics, tell stories, sing rhymes and recite simple poems like Athichoodi.	The students will recognize letters and read simple words and sentences.	The students will write letters correctly and clearly, write words of pictures, and write simple sentences with assistance.

Learning Outcome - At the end of Grade 3			
Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
The students will understand sound differences, additional words, sentences, conversations, announcements, songs and stories.	The students will speak fluently describing the pictures and scenes, narrate about places seen and incidents, speak on the given topics, tell stories, act like characters, and recite poems like Thirukkural, Kondrai Vendhan and Ulaga Needhi.	The students will obtain enriched vocabulary by reading simple passages, conversations, essays, announcements, songs, and stories.	The students will provide answers in full sentences, and write small essays using pictures and hints.

Learning Outcome - At the end of Grade 6			
Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
The students will distinguish between spoken and written Tamil and understand discussions, stories, announcements, news, proverbs, and verses.	The students will speak with correct pronunciation, confidence and clarity, speak on a variety of topics, participate in discussions, tell stories, act like characters, and recite poems like Thirukkural, Kondrai Vendhan, Vetri VeRkai and Nalvazhi, and Bharathiyar songs.	The students will read fluently with correct pronunciation and modulation and understand a variety of passages, essays, letters, information, stories and songs, with minimal help.	The students will write essays and letters with increased vocabulary and understanding of sentence construction.

3.2 Secondary (Grades 7 to 10)

Learning Outcome - At the end of Grade 10			
Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
<p>The students will build up an extensive vocabulary that enables them to understand any subject. Will follow commands correctly.</p>	<p>The students will either listen to or read different types of material and explain with clarity their understanding of the subject matter both in colloquial and formal Tamil. Will develop the ability to choose the right words for the right occasion. Will take into consideration the age and experience of the listener and speak accordingly. Will speak logically quoting the right examples and evidence to corroborate their viewpoint. Will be able to review literary works.</p>	<p>The students will be able to read any material - be it colloquial or written Tamil - quickly, accurately and with expression. Their previous understanding of the subject matter would come into assist. Will be able to understand the central view point of the material that they are reading and will be able to identify the logic behind the argument. Will read further regarding the subject on different media and collect information. Will understand the connection between information and the logic presented. Will look at the subject matter from various angles and draw a conclusion of their own.</p>	<p>The students will express in written Tamil - their understanding of the subject matter - imbibed either through listening or reading. Will use the appropriate words, phrases, idioms, analogies, proverbs etc to corroborate their viewpoint. Will collect material from different media and use them to purport their ideas. The written material will be such that the reader will be able to understand easily. It would be cogent and organized within paragraphs.</p>

4 Resources

Beginner Level:

- Proprietary Workbooks and PowerPoint slides from Lakshmi Tamil Learning Center

Grades 1 - 10:

Singapore Books (For respective Grades):

- Tamil Oosai Paada Nool
- Tamil Oosai Payirchi Nool
- Mozhi VaLam
- Karuththarithal
- Katturaip Payirchi
- Story Books
- Assessment Papers

Others:

- Select passages/stories from Tamilnadu Books, Tamil Virtual University, and other resources from web
- Kathai Aruvi Series from Chattanath Foundation, Tamilnadu

Grades 6 - 10: (Select lessons as applicable to level)

- Tamil for Beginners Part I & II (Reading and Writing & Grammar) by Kausalya Hart
- A Basic Tamil Reader and Grammar by K. Paramasivam and James Lindholm
- The “Jim and Raja” Conversations by K. Paramasivam and James Lindholm

5 Evaluation Methods

Unique assessment tools are designed by the teachers to measure the outcome of learning objectives and to test students' analytical and application skills.

Weekly tests, midterm, and semester examinations are conducted to evaluate the listening, speaking, reading and writing abilities of students. Overall, a student is expected to maintain a minimum average of 70%.

Homework is given to make students practice what they learned in the class. Speech topics, essay/letter writing, poem learning, and story reading are also given for homework. Higher classes are asked to do book reviews and research projects using Tamil websites.

Three speech and reading competitions are conducted every year to help students to gain skills in public speaking. Poster competitions are also conducted during annual day. Students are given guidance to choose a theme, do intensive research, and come up with a quality poster. Trophies are awarded to the winning students.