

PHILOSOPHY

The Early Childhood Program focuses on preschool children aged 3, 4 and 5. The young child at this age is able to relate to the care and love of God through self-identity, nature and the love of others.

Therefore the Early Childhood Catechesis program focuses on teaching catechists HOW to help young children grow in their awareness of God - God the Creator, God the Loving Parent, God the Friend and the Wonderful World of God.



Guidelines for the Early Childhood Program

The Early Childhood program provides the following guidelines which promote child development principles, age appropriate activities and Catholic faith development.

1. Teachers should be certified.
2. Class size should be maintained as follows:
 - 3 year olds - maximum of 8
 - 4 year olds - maximum of 10
 - 5 year olds - maximum of 12
3. The principal catechist must be an adult.
4. Parents need to understand and support the philosophy of the program.
5. Approved textbooks and materials should be used.
6. Creative art experiences, music and movement activities should be used as often as possible.
7. Each lesson should be carefully planned.
8. Spontaneous prayer is the heart of every lesson and should be inserted throughout the class.
9. While scriptural themes are basic to the program, scriptural readings are not appropriate for this age group.
10. Strong, positive images of God are stressed.
11. Special celebrations are planned with the level of the child in mind.
12. Human, concrete experiences from the everyday life of the child form the basic "content" of this religion-readiness program.

To learn more about our guidelines, call the Early Childhood Consultant and participate in our next specialization.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CATECHESIS

**"I ASSURE YOU,
UNLESS YOU
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BECOME LIKE
LITTLE CHILDREN,
YOU WILL NOT
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KINGDOM OF GOD."
MATTHEW 18:2**



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Early Childhood Specialization

Our specialization series is a 20 hour program which helps the catechist to learn what and how to catechize young 3, 4 & 5 year old children. Components of the series include:

- Philosophy
- Classroom Organization & Lesson Planning
- Affirmative Discipline
- Storytelling
- Music & Movement
- Table Celebrations
- Children under Stress
- Themes Involving the Senses
- Talking & Listening Skills
- Creative Art Experiences
- God's Gift of Feelings and Emotions
- Themes of Family Friends and Community
- Environmental Awareness
- Themes Involving Elements:
Air, Light, Water & Earth
- Themes Involving Animals
- Themes Involving Plants & Seasons
- Exploring Death to Young Children
- Easter as the New Life of Spring
- Closing Non-Eucharistic Celebration
- Parents Are the Primary Religious Educators of Their Children



Other Workshops Available

The Early Childhood Consultant and members of the Early Childhood Advisory Board are available to facilitate workshops on any of the early childhood specialization areas as well as the workshop titles listed below:

- * We're Not just Babysitters
- *Program Management
- *Positive Discipline
- *Early Childhood: Ages, Stages & Faith Development
- *Young Children's Spirituality
- *Secular & Liturgical Year with Young Children
- *Creative Crafts for Early Childhood
- *Finding the God Message in Secular Stories
- *Recognizing & Maximizing Teachable Moments
- *Spontaneous Prayer for Children and Families
- *Multiple Intelligence in Young Children
- *Children in Family Crises
- *Nurturing Parents & Volunteers
- *Developing Family Traditions
- *Alternatives to Commercialized Christmas
- *Morals, Manners & Ethnic Appreciation
- *Resources
- *Other Topics on Request



Regional Networking

To maximize the activities within each region, we hold networking meetings once each year within each Region. These meetings help early childhood catechist to learn current early childhood research, fresh creative classroom ideas and provide opportunities to connect with other early childhood professionals.

Information & Scheduling

We'd love to hear from you!!!

To schedule a workshop at your parish, attend one of our specialization series or regional network meetings, or to have your name added to our mailing list, call the Early Childhood Consultant at:

(213) 637-7352



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