

Curriculum Standards

Performance Indicators

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Sample Activities

For Children of Ages Five and Six

or

those in Grade One

Prayers to be introduced...

Word Bank

Advent
Christmas
Genuflect
Easter
Eucharist
Forgiveness
Mass
Lent
Baptism
Christian
Good Friday
Holy Thursday
Holy Spirit
Apostle
Bible
Prayer



Our Father

Glory Be



Prayers to "learn by heart."

Sign of the Cross

Hail Mary

Angel of God

Morning and Evening Prayer

Grace Before and After Meals

Give Sacred Scripture a special place in the classroom.

Encourage a reverent and prayerful attitude in the place of worship.

Parents should be encouraged to help children learn the required prayers at home.

Foster participation in the prayer and worship of the parish community.



Standard #1 Faith

Present an understanding of the human need for God based on revelation and faith.

Performance Indicator

~Identify ways that God shows love for us and how we can respond.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicator?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicator?

Some Sample Activities



Provide the children with some very special stationary. Explain that they are going to write a very special letter. They may use words they know and add pictures to the letter, as well. Ask them to write a 'Dear God' letter of thanks that can be collected, copied and mailed home to parents.



Engage the children in a discussion about how God gifts us with special people in their lives. Ask the children to draw a picture that shows three of the people they most need in their lives. Ask them to include something in the picture showing what makes these people important to them.



Make a rainbow banner together entitled "God's Promise". Take time to read the Genesis story of Noah's ark and talk about God's covenant with us.



Take time to discuss where we find God's love for us in our world. Allow time for the children to work together to make a "Where is God?" collage.



Children can participate in a drama re-enacting the story of creation by using simple props, fabric, etc. to show God's special gifts.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #2 Scripture

Read, understand, interpret and apply Scripture to life.

Performance Indicators

~Express that the Bible contains God's Word for God's people.

~Point out ways that God speaks to us through the Bible.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Read selections from the prophets and the Gospels. Be sure to show the children where you found the stories in God's Word.



Act out a parable that Jesus told. Talk about what God is telling us in the story.



Read a Bible story, God's Word, to the children and ask them to draw a picture of their favorite part. Then have the children put the pictures in the correct sequence.



As a group, create a mural from a Bible story that you have read, or color a large picture of Jesus. Ask the children what the picture is saying about God.

Other activities I found useful...

Creed



Standard #3 Doctrine & Dogma

Illustrate a basic understanding of doctrine and dogma in light of the creed.

Performance Indicators

- ~Recall that Mary is the Mother of God.
- ~Articulate that Jesus is the Son of God and came to bring us God's Word.
- ~Recognize the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of God sent by Jesus to be with us always.
- ~Express that the Catholic Church is a family of believers and a community of Jesus' followers.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Learn the Hail Mary together. Discuss its meaning and pray it often.



Read the infancy narrative from St. Luke's Gospel to the children. Ask the children to recount what they learned about Mary and Jesus.



Gather families to plant seeds. Read the parable of The Sower and talk about how God's Word is like the seeds.



Ask the children to work together to create a large mural showing all the different kinds of people who make up the parish family. Hang the mural in a prominent place for all to see.



Engage the children in a discussion about some of the problems families face, and act out scenes of forgiveness to demonstrate how we are called by Jesus to forgive one another.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #4 Trinity
Recognize the Trinity as God.

Performance Indicators

- ~Relate that God wants us to be happy and always forgives us.
- ~Examine how Jesus, the Son of God, teaches us about God.
- ~Recognize that the Holy Spirit can help us make good choices so we can live together in peace.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Allow the children to draw a triangle depicting images of God the Father as Creator, God the Son as Savior, and God the Holy Spirit as Advocate. Challenge them to take it home and explain it to their families.



Design a "Gifts of the Spirit" banner or bulletin board that shows the ways in which the Spirit can help us make good choices.



Invite parents and children to recall a time when they were forgiven, and then relate this to God's love.



Arrange for the children to hear and then role-play a parable that depicts forgiveness.



Read a Gospel story together that tells about how Jesus taught us about God. Invite conversation from the children about what Jesus told us about God.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #5 Church

Illustrate a basic understanding of Church.

Performance Indicator

~Identify and celebrate the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicator?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicator?

Some Sample Activities



Gather the children and their families together for a springtime nature walk to look for and gather signs of new life. Connect the discoveries to the resurrection of Jesus.



Invite the children to participate in making symbols for and decorating a Jesse Tree, or have them create a paper wreath to take home for Advent.



Provide time for the children to make a New Life album out of items collected on the springtime walk with their families. Allow creative drawings to be added to help personalize each album, and then talk about what the albums illustrate. Be sure to include the concepts of *new life* and *transformation*.



Invite families to help their children list all of the sacramental events they have seen and talk about what was celebrated at each event.



Pray the Way of the Cross in the Church during Lent. Invite families to join you.



Make special "Birth of Jesus" storybooks. Ask the children to pretend they were in a stable in Bethlehem and write in the storybooks what they saw and heard. They should also add illustrations.

Other activities I found useful...

Creed



Standard #6 Community

Demonstrate an appreciation for faith community as the primary way we come to know God.

Performance Indicators

- ~Recognize that we are Catholic Christians.
- ~Describe how the Church is a special and sacred place.
- ~Illustrate ways the parish is a community.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Provide time for the children to make individual illustrations of what it means to be Catholic, and then create a class poster using the illustrations.



Encourage families to celebrate Sunday Mass regularly together. Help them understand how the parish family is like their own.



With the assistance of an adult, have the children photograph or video various ministries being performed in the parish. Share the pictures and discuss how people are using their gifts and talents in each ministry. Discuss the different ways people in the parish are involved in helping others.



Arrange for the children and their families to tour the church building.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #7 Creation

Exercise responsible stewardship for the gift of Creation.

Performance Indicators

- ~Identify that Creation is a gift from God.
- ~Acknowledge that life is precious in plants, animals and persons.
- ~Explain that as Christians we accept responsibility for all of God's creation and promise to care for it.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Challenge the children to take on a specific responsibility for part of God's Creation, e.g. Care for a pet or clean up a yard.



Assist the children in writing a play about God's precious gift of life. Help them make finger puppets to act out the play.



Help the children make badges for each other that identify the wearer as a person who cares for all living things.



Provide materials for the children to make a banner entitled "God Made Everything Good."



Encourage the children to use their own creative abilities to write a poem, a prayer or a song about God's gift of nature.

Other activities I found useful...

Sacraments



Standard #8 Sacraments

Demonstrate the importance of sacraments, with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist, in the life of Catholics.

Performance Indicators

- ~Explain that sacraments are celebrations and signs of Jesus' love.
- ~Recall that Jesus shares himself with us in a special meal.
- ~Understand that in Baptism we become members of God's family and receive new life.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Provide pictures of each sacrament for the children to look at and ask them to explain how Jesus shows his love in each.



Role play a baptism with the children and talk about the signs and symbols of the sacrament.



Read a story together about healing and discuss what it means to be healed. Take time to relate this to the sacraments of Penance/Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick.



Show a video like *Grandma's Bread*, *Amanda Goes to Mass*, or *What Changed Michael?*. Talk about the video together.



Discuss with the children how each of us is initiated into the various groups we join and relate the experiences to the sacraments of initiation.



Enlist the help of parents or other relatives to assist the children in listing the ways the sacrament of Matrimony can be a sacrament of service.



Encourage children to discuss with their parents the importance of attending Mass on Sunday as a family.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #9 Discipleship

Examine a variety of Christian vocations as a response to the baptismal call.

Performance Indicator

~Offer activities that illustrate the ways that Jesus taught us how to live.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicator?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicator?

Some Sample Activities



Discuss with the children the many ways they can help at home and ask them to identify one specific way to show more respect for their parents. Encourage the children to live this out at home for the next week.



Provide magazines and other resources that show pictures of families (single person, couples, one-parent families, two-parent families, etc.) doing things to help each other. Allow the children to cut them out and make a poster with the pictures.



Ask the children to list the leaders in their own parish, and then discuss with the children the unique role each leader plays in the community.



As a group, help the children make a mobile or a paper chain that depicts the stories from Jesus' life that teach us how to live.



Invite a religious, priest, married couple and a single person to talk about the ways in which each serves God and His people.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #10 Human Dignity

Acknowledge and affirm the dignity of the human person and community.

Performance Indicator

~Recognize that we care for people of different cultures and races.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicator?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicator?

Some Sample Activities



Help the children create a collage on poster board called "All God's Children." Include of people from different cultural, ethnic and racial backgrounds.



Invite the children to interview their parents about their own ethnic and religious heritage. Using a globe, point out that God's people are all over the world.



Read the story of the loaves and fishes to the children. Have them participate by acting out the story, and then discuss how it relates to caring for others, especially those different from us.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #11 Human Interaction / Sexuality

Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

Performance Indicator

~Show ways we can express love of family.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicator?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicator?

Some Sample Activities



Invite family members to make a list of the things each person does for the rest of the family, emphasizing special talents of each family member.



Encourage families to hold hands during morning prayer, meal prayer and bedtime prayer.



Teach the children a song about ways to treat others with respect.



Create and celebrate a prayer service about God's life, including the song, "We Are the Children of the World".



Help the children write a parable together showing ways they can love their friends and family.



Engage the children in a discussion about right and wrong and loving vs. hurtful actions. Discuss what makes the actions loving or hurtful and right or wrong.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #12 Social Justice

Know, critique and apply social justice principles to personal and societal situations.

Performance Indicator

Demonstrate how we show concern for the poor and the suffering.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicator?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicator?

Some Sample Activities



Organize a clothing drive, a Lenten rice bowl program, a Thanksgiving food basket collection, a Christmas giving tree or food pantry collection for the children and their families to participate in as a way to share with others.



Invite a member of the parish social justice committee to visit and discuss his or her work with the poor.



Allow the children to draw cards for shut-ins and ask the families to help deliver them.



Read and reflect together on the Gospel stories of Jesus caring for the poor and outcast.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #13 Community Service

Engage in service to the community (e.g. family, parish, local, national and global) in response to the Gospel Call.

Performance Indicator

~Describe how we are helpful and loving to our parents, teachers and friends.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicator?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicator?

Some Sample Activities



Help the children develop a picture story of themselves helping other people.



Provide special stationery for the children to use to write a love note to God telling what they'll do for another person this week.



Brainstorm with the children about ways they can show God's love at home, school and Church.



Provide materials for the children to make posters showing ways to be kind to parents, teachers and friends.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #14 Moral Conscience

Develop a moral conscience informed by Church teachings.

Performance Indicator

~Demonstrate how we live good lives with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicator?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicator?

Some Sample Activities



Create mini diaries for the children and ask them to keep track for one week of how they are led by the Holy Spirit to do good deeds.



Allow time for the children to tell stories about choices they made; identify which were good choices and which were not.



Read aloud the Bible story of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai. Talk about how the commandments help us live good lives.



Allow time for the children to talk about how they learn right from wrong.



Help the children memorize Jesus' Law of Love. Encourage them to recite it for their parents at home and share one way they can live it.



Ask the children to draw a picture of how they feel when they choose not to do good.

Other activities I found useful...

Prayer



Standard #15 Catholic Tradition of Prayer

Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer.

Performance Indicators

- ~Recognize that prayer is listening to and talking to God.
- ~Demonstrate how Jesus teaches us to pray.
- ~Recite the Sign of the Cross, the Our Father and the Hail Mary.
- ~Discuss why morning, mealtime and night prayers are important.

Assessment : How will you know that the children learned or are able to perform the indicators?

Where in your catechetical materials did you find the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Encourage the children to pray quietly to God daily.



Read Scripture stories to the children about Jesus praying.



Invite the children to interview various adults, asking them to explain their understanding of the Our Father.



Ask parents to help you teach the children the prayer responses for Mass.



Together, write intercessions for a group or family prayer service.



Re-read the Gospel together from Sunday's liturgy and discuss how it relates to the children's lives this week.



Provide opportunities for the children to pray spontaneously.

Other activities I found useful...