

Curriculum Standards

Performance Indicators

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Sample Activities

For Children of Ages Four and Five

or

those in Pre-Kindergarten

and

Kindergarten

Prayers to be introduced...



Our Father



Prayers to "learn by heart."

Sign of the Cross

Hail Mary

Angel of God

Prayers to be taught...

Grace Before and After Meals

Morning and Evening Prayer



Word Bank

Advent

Christmas

Church building

Easter

Eucharist

Forgive

Lent

Love

Prayer

Sorry or Sorrow

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

~Relate that all things are gifts from God.

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



Find pictures in books and magazines that show caring families. Talk about what they are doing and how these actions reflect the love of God.



Make and decorate place cards for each member of the family to use at a family dinner. Remind the children that they are showing their love for God by showing their love for their families.



Invite children and parents to contribute pictures and stories for a Thanksgiving quilt mural that shows gifts from God to hang in the parish.



Draw a picture or find photos of things that reflect gifts from God. Use them in a Thanksgiving prayer service.

Other activities I found useful...

Creed



Standard #2 Scripture

Read, understand, interpret and apply Scripture to life.

Performance Indicators

~Recall that Bible stories tell us about creation.

~Recall that the Bible tells us about the life of Jesus.

~Recall that the Bible tells us that caring for others is living God's love.

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

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

Some Sample Activities



Help the children create a poster that shows Jesus on one half and pictures of people showing kindness and love for one another on the other half of the poster. Find a Bible quote appropriate for the poster.



Ask the children to participate in creating a prayer space where the Bible is enthroned in order to highlight the importance of God's Word in daily life.



Allow the children to retell the Bible stories of creation or a story from the life of Jesus, using flannel board figures or finger puppets.

Other activities I found useful...

Creed



Standard #3 Doctrine & Dogma

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

Performance Indicator

~Relate how the Sign of the Cross is the most basic expression of the Creed.

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



Have the children make the Sign of the Cross to demonstrate their belief in the Holy Trinity.



Discuss with the children the times that we make the Sign of the Cross at Sunday Mass, and the reasons we do so.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #4 Trinity

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

Performance Indicator

~Recognize the Trinity as God.

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



Prepare some popcorn together. As you eat it, talk about the five senses that are gifts of God, our loving parent or loving Father, the first person of the Blessed Trinity.



Review with the children the Sign of the Cross as a prayer to the Trinity.



Read a story together about friendship. Make a friendship bracelet that includes a picture of Jesus, the Son of God. Give the bracelet to a friend.

Other activities I found useful...

Creed



Standard #5 Church

Illustrate a basic understanding of Church.

Performance Indicators

~Recognize that the Church is a sacred place.

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

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

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

Some Sample Activities



Set up a time for parents and children to tour the Church building. Guide them through and include explanations about the special places and objects they see. Relate each to items and places they see at home.



Invite parents to join their children in making an Advent wreath for the family to take home.



Gather the families in the sanctuary. Let them hear about who gathers there and why.

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

~Tell how our parish community is like a family.

~Demonstrate how we respect others at liturgy.

~Identify the church as a sacred place where the people of God gather.

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

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Some Sample Activities



Set up a special day for families to come together to Mass and Sunday School. Be sure to discuss respectful behavior.



Encourage the children to draw pictures of their family members on construction paper leaves and add them to a larger parish family tree mural.



Arrange for the children to participate in a liturgy that is especially prepared for family celebration at the parish.



Ask the children to draw a picture illustrating one thing their family does at home that is similar to what the family of God does at Church.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #7 Creation

Exercise responsible stewardship for the gift of creation.

Performance Indicators

- ~Recognize the beauty of God's creation.
- ~Recall that all of God's creation needs care.

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

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

Some Sample Activities



Plant some flowers as part of an Earth Day celebration. Talk about the beauty of God's creation.



Arrange times throughout the year when the children can take care of the flowers by watering and weeding them.

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

- ~Recognize that we are welcomed into God's family at Baptism.
- ~Demonstrate participation in parish Sunday liturgy.

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

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

Some Sample Activities



Extend a special invitation for the children to celebrate Sunday liturgy with their families and participate in the music, simple prayers and the sign of peace to help them develop a sense of awe/respect for the sacrament.



Help the children design a poster that shows a church on one half and pictures of them celebrating their birthdays and baptisms on the other half. Reinforce the concept that their baptisms were their births into the family of God.



Encourage families to look at photos and recall the Baptism of each child.

Other activities I found useful...

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Other activities I found useful...



Standard #9 Discipleship

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

Performance Indicators

- ~Relate that priests serve God in a special way.
- ~Tell how people in our Church community serve God.

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

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

Some Sample Activities



Share a story with the children of how a priest or other minister has touched the life of someone they know.



Invite the Pastor, Deacon, Associate Pastor, Parish Life Coordinator, Pastoral Associate and other parish leaders to visit with the children and tell a little about who they are and their ministries.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #10 Human Dignity

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

Performance Indicators

- ~Accept and appreciate that all humans are unique and special children of God.
- ~Acknowledge that every person is loveable.

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

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

Some Sample Activities



Help the children draw pictures of themselves inside hearts. Have them dictate a sentence about how they are lovable that can be written beneath the picture.



Create a banner of handprints that reflect the beauty of all skin colors, using multiple skin colored paints.



Teach the children to sing the song *Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World*. Add some sign language or other hand motions to it.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #11 Human Interaction / Sexuality

Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

Performance Indicators

- ~Tell how we love our families.
- ~Relate how we love our neighbors.
- ~Apply the concept of sharing with others.
- ~Show care for other people.

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

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

Some Sample Activities



Ask the children to bring one vegetable from home. Read the story of the loaves and fishes together, and then help the children make vegetable soup out of what they have brought. Discuss the act of sharing.



Allow the children to bring a family photo from home and share something about their family with others.



Design greeting cards to share with shut-ins or people in hospitals and nursing homes.



Invite the children to participate in developing a list of ways they can show care for others.



Encourage the children to contribute to a "rice bowl" project during Lent. Add the rice bowl to your prayer space and include the hungry in your prayers.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #12 Social Justice

Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

Performance Indicators

~Tell how the parish family works together to help others.

~Show concern for all people.

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

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

Some Sample Activities



Help the children cut out pictures of food items they could share with those in need and paste them onto a small lunch bag.



Encourage children and their families to participate in a parish food drive or other service project.



Gather materials and provide the opportunity for children to make place mats and deliver them to a local nursing home.

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

- ~Recognize that Jesus wants us to help our family and friends.
- ~Show concern for all people.

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

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

Some Sample Activities



Provide time for the children to role play ways they can help their families at home. Take time to discuss how their actions respond to Jesus' Call to love one another.



Have the children create and decorate a coupon book of helpful actions for Mother's or Father's Day that they can present as a gift to their mothers or fathers because Jesus wants us to be helpful.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #14 Moral Conscience

Develop a moral conscience informed by Church teachings.

Performance Indicators

- ~Demonstrate that we show love by how we act.
- ~Give examples of right and wrong.

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

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

Some Sample Activities



Encourage discussion among the children that will help them identify ways of showing love to each other; have them create a poster or drawings that show these actions.



Send home a special letter to parents inviting them to discuss with their children behaviors that are both loving and unloving. Encourage them to relate these behaviors to the Gospel stories they know.

Other activities I found useful...

Prayer



Standard #15 Catholic Tradition of Prayer
Develop a moral conscience informed by Church teachings.

Performance Indicators

- ~Recall that prayer is talking to God.
- ~Realize that songs can be prayers.
- ~Recite and demonstrate the Sign of the Cross.
- ~Pray simple prayers each morning, evening and mealtime.
- ~Pray spontaneously and participate in community prayer.

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

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

Some Sample Activities



Allow the children the opportunity to have imaginary phone conversations with God.



Teach the children a new song of praise and thanksgiving to God.



Create a small book of prayers for the children to decorate and take home to their families.



Introduce the children to a before meal prayer. Give them a copy of the prayer on a special card that they can decorate and take home to share with their families for use before meals.



Teach the children to make the Sign of the Cross and share the lesson with the parents by encouraging them to use it frequently at home.



Begin and end each gathering with prayer. Encourage the children to add their own personal intentions and prayers of praise.

Other activities I found useful...