

Curriculum Standards

Performance Indicators

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Sample Activities

For Children of Ages Seven and Eight

or

those in Grade Two

Word Bank

Absolution
Bible
Chalice
Host
Confess
Confession
Tabernacle
Sacrifice
Creed
Faith
Apostles
Hope
Sin
Resurrection
Commandments
Peace
Love
Last Supper
Eucharist
Catholic
Contrition
Body of Christ
Conscience
Christian
Holiness
Mercy
Reconciliation
Penance
Pardon
Sacrament
Old Testament
Baptism
Sorrow
New Testament
Liturgy of the Eucharist
Liturgy of the Word
Kingdom of God
Examination of Conscience
Grace = God's life in me

Prayers to be introduced...



Act of Contrition

Liturgical Responses



Prayers to "learn by heart."

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary Angel of God

Morning and Evening Prayer

Grace Before and After Meals

Glory Be

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.

Creed



Standard #1 Faith

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

Performance Indicators

- ~Recognize that we believe in the Father.
- ~Be aware of God's presence in the 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 the children with some very special stationery. Explain that they are going to write a very special letter. Ask them to write a "Dear God" letter of thanks that can be collected, copied and mailed home to parents.



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



Engage the children in a discussion about God's gift of special people in their lives. Ask them 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.



Help the children participate in a drama about 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 Indicator

~Relate that the Bible is made up of the Old Testament and the New Testament.

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



Set up a Bible search, asking the children to try find different books of the Bible in both the Old and the New Testaments. Read some selections together.



As a group, create a mural of a Bible story from the Old Testament or color a large picture of Jesus from a story in the New Testament.



Read aloud a parable from the New Testament that Jesus told. Allow the children to act it out to retell it.



Help the children practice finding things in their Bibles by playing Bible Bingo. Use both chapter and verse references once the children are able to find the books.

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

- ~Articulate that Jesus is the Son of God and came to bring us God's Word.
- ~Demonstrate that the Holy Spirit is with us to help us pray.
- ~Relate the fact that Jesus dies for us on the cross.
- ~Recognize that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday to give us new life.
- ~Recognize that the Holy Spirit of God was sent by Jesus to be with us always.
- ~Explore the image of the Catholic Church as 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



Ask the children to draw themselves as a helping member of a family, and then again as a member of the family being helped by others. Remind them that we should always "love one another" as Jesus loved us.



Create a word search page that challenges the children to find the titles of those who make up the Church family, i.e., families, priests, pope.



Gather the families to plant seeds. Add "He is Risen" crosses to help the children learn about new life.



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



Read a Gospel account of the Lord's Passion to the children.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #4 Trinity
Recognize the Trinity as God.

Performance Indicators

- ~Explain that God loves us even when we hurt others.
- ~Recognize that Jesus brings us God's forgiveness.
- ~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



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



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



Read a Gospel story together that tell about how Jesus lived, and invite the children to talk about ways they might also live like Jesus.



Have the children help design a "Gifts of the Spirit" banner or bulletin board that shows the ways in which the Spirit is alive in families and in the parish.



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

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #5 Church

Illustrate a basic understanding of Church.

Performance Indicators

- ~Celebrate the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.
- ~Indicate that the Catholic Church celebrates its faith through the sacraments.
- ~Recognize that in Baptism we become members of the Church.

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



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.



Provide time for the children to make a New Life album out of items collected on a nature walk. Allow creative drawings to be added to help personalize each album, and then take time to discuss what the albums illustrate. Be sure to include the concepts of resurrection, new life and transformation in the discussion.



Invite families to help their children list all of the sacramental events in which they have participate and what they celebrated at each event.



Gather the children to participate in a mock baptism. Allow them to act out the various roles.



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



Invite the children to participate in making symbols for and decorating a Jesse Tree to show some very special members of God's family.

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

- ~Point out that we belong to a parish family who gathers at Mass to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.
- ~Explain that the tabernacle in a Catholic Church is where the Eucharist is kept after the celebration of a Mass.
- ~Explain that, as members of a parish family, we are called to serve others.

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 poster together using the illustrations.



Arrange for the children and their families to participate in a tour of the church building. Point out the tabernacle and its purpose.



Discuss the different ways people in the parish are involved in helping others.



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



With the assistance of an adult, have the children photograph or video tape various ministries being performed around the parish. Share the pictures and discuss how people are using their own gifts and talents in each ministry.



Spend some time talking about how various saints served others. Have a special class when the children may come dressed up like their favorite saints and celebrate their lives.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #7 Creation

Exercise responsible stewardship for the gift of Creation.

Performance Indicators

- ~Emphasize 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



Provide materials for the children to make a banner together 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 Creation.



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



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



Assist the children to write a short skit about God's precious gift of life. Make finger puppets to act out the play.

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

- ~Point out that in Baptism we become members of God's family and receive new life.
- ~Indicate that the sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation is a way to say we are sorry for our sins and celebrate God's forgiveness.
- ~Recall that at the Last Supper Jesus instituted the sacrament of the Eucharist.
- ~Recognize that at the celebration of the Eucharist the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus, a sign of love 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 the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Show pictures of the sacraments and ask the children 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.



Encourage the children to discuss with their parents the importance of attending Mass on Sundays as a family because, by our Baptism, we are members of God's family.



Show a video like *Grandma's Bread, Amanda Goes to Mass* or *What Changed Michael?*. Talk about the Mass as a celebration and sign of Jesus' love.



Discuss how each of us is initiated into groups we join and relate the experience to the sacrament of Baptism.



Read a story together about healing. Discuss what it means and how it relates to the sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #9 Discipleship

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

Performance Indicator

~Demonstrate that we live lovingly in our family and respect our parents.

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 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.



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.



Make a mobile showing family members working together.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #10 Human Dignity

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

Performance Indicator

Demonstrate that we love ourselves and others as gifts of 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



Create a collage on poster board of people from different cultural, ethnic and racial backgrounds. Discuss that all people are children of God.



Help the children identify personal gifts/talents which they possess. Relate these unique gifts/talents with God's special love for each of them. Discuss how these gifts and talents can be used to help others.



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



Read the Scripture story of the loaves and fishes, and discuss how it related to caring for others, especially those different from us.



Allow time for the children to draw a large package with themselves inside, as a gift.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #11 Human Interaction / Sexuality

Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

Performance Indicator

~Point out that we are called to treat others the way Jesus treated others.

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 the special talents of each family member. Title the list, "In Imitation of Jesus."



Help the children write a parable showing ways they can love their friends and families as Jesus did.



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. Talk about how Jesus would want us to act.



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



Create and celebrate a prayer service about Jesus and how he wants us to treat others.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #12 Social Justice

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

Performance Indicator

~Indicate how we share what we have with others.

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.



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



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



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

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 Indicators

- ~Recall that the Eucharist is a sacrament of love and service.
- ~Indicate how we cooperate in school, church and community projects.
- ~Demonstrate how we share in Jesus' ministry by loving and serving others.

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



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



Have the children make a mosaic together that includes children, their families and the parish community at a meal loving and serving others.



Provide special stationary for the children to use to write a love note to God telling what they will 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 Indicators

- ~Point out that we have a choice to do good.
- ~Explain that we sin when we choose not to do good.

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



Create mini diaries for the children and ask them to keep track of all the good deeds they do for one week .



Allow time for the children to talk about what conscience means and how they learn right from wrong.



Read aloud the Bible story of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai. Discuss how the commandments help us make good choices.



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



Help the children memorize Jesus' Law of Love. Encourage them to recite it for their parents and share how the family can practice it at home.



Allow time for the children to tell stories about some of the choices they have made, identifying which were good and which were not. Encourage them to talk about the how the good choices were consistent with Christian values.

Other activities I found useful...

Prayer



Standard #15 Catholic Tradition of Prayer

Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer.

Performance Indicators

~Recite the Act of Contrition.

~Explain that at Mass we gather together as God's family and pray the responses.

~Relate what happens at the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

~Explain the importance of daily 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 the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



Encourage the children to pray quietly to God every day.



Read Scripture stories to the children about Jesus praying.



Invite the children to participate in Mass with their families and to discuss the readings either before or after the liturgy.



Provide opportunities for the children to pray spontaneously.



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



Prepare a list with the children that identifies the main parts of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.



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



Write intercessions together for a group or family prayer service.

Other activities I found useful...