

Curriculum Standards

Performance Indicators

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Sample Activities

For Children of Ages Eight and Nine

or

those in Grade Three

Word Bank

Annunciation
Bishop
Communion of Saints
Deacon
Initiation
Parables
Pope
Priest
Assumption
Sacristy
Service
Trinity
Cardinal
Consecration
Disciple
Savior
Vestments
Pastor
Presider's Chair
Religious Brother
Lay man, lay woman
Stewardship
Sacred Vessels
Word of God
Religious Sister



Prayers to be Introduced...

Angelus Rosary
Prayer to the Holy Spirit Apostles Creed
Regina Coeli spontaneous prayer



Prayers to "learn by heart."

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Angel of God

Hail Mary

Morning and Evening Prayer

Grace Before and After Meals

Glory Be

Act of Contrition

Liturgical Responses

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

~Show how God takes care of us and is always faithful to us.

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



Engage the children in a discussion about how God cares for them by giving them special people in their lives. Ask them to draw a picture that shows three of the people they most need. Ask the children to explain why these people are important to them.



Take time to read the Genesis story of Noah's Ark and talk about God's covenant with us. Follow up by making a rainbow banner entitle "God's Promise".



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



Provide the children with some very special stationary. 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.



To show God's special gifts, have children retell the story of Creation by using simple props, fabric, etc.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #2 Scripture

Read, understand, interpret and apply Scripture to life.

Performance Indicators

- ~Locate passages in the Bible according to books, chapters and verses.
- ~Demonstrate how we come to know Jesus in the Word of 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 the performance indicators?

Some Sample Activities



To help the children learn how to locate Bible passages, set up a Bible search game. Ask the children to find specific selections and read them together.



Act out a parable that Jesus told. Discuss what we know about Jesus from this story.



Create a mural together from a Bible story that you have read. Cite where the story is found in God's Word.



Play Bible Bingo, using both chapter and verse references. Increase the difficulty as familiarity with the Bible increases.

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.
- ~Show how God loves and cares for us as a parent.
- ~Demonstrate that the Holy Spirit is with us to help us pray.
- ~Explain the marks of the Catholic Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

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 materials to make a "See What God Made" cardboard tube telescope. Take a walk together to discover the wonderful world God made.



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



Ask the children to work together to create a large mural showing the four marks of the Church. Hang the mural in a prominent place for all to see.

Other activities I found useful...

Creed



Standard #4 Trinity

Recognize the Trinity as God.

Performance Indicators

- ~Identify God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- ~Recall that Jesus is a Person who lived historically and is alive now.
- ~Relate that the Holy Spirit is a gift of God the Father and Jesus Christ who enables the life of the Church on earth.

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 a Gospel story together that tells about how Jesus lived. Invite conversation from the children about ways in which they might also live like Jesus.



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 Advocate. Challenge them to take it home and explain it to their families.



Design a "Gifts of the Spirit" , or even a "Fruits of the Spirit" banner or bulletin board that shows the ways in which the Spirit, a gift of God, is alive in families and in the parish.

Other activities I found useful...

Creed



Standard #5 Church

Illustrate a basic understanding of Church.

Performance Indicators

- ~Point out that Jesus founded the Church and chose twelve apostles to help him.
- ~Identify that Christians celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead on Easter Sunday.
- ~Illustrate that the season of Advent prepares us for Christmas and the second coming of Christ; Lent prepares us for Easter and is a special times for praying, sacrificing and sharing.

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 the children to make symbols and decorate a Jesse Tree, or have them make a paper plate Advent wreath to take home, illustrating Christmas preparations in the Catholic tradition.



As a Lenten activity, gather the children and their families for a springtime nature walk to look for signs of new life. Connect the discoveries to the resurrection of Jesus.



Engage the children in a discussion about choosing Lenten practices which focus on prayer, sacrifice and sharing.



Pray the Way of the Cross together in the Church during Lent as a preparation for the celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection. Invite families to join you.



Make special storybooks about the life of Jesus. Ask the children to pretend they were living at that time and write in the storybooks what they saw and heard.

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

- ~Identify that our Church community includes the pope, clergy, vowed religious and lay people.
- ~Demonstrate how the Church continues Jesus' ministries of community, Word, worship and service.
- ~Study the lives of the saints. Explain that their lives witness the life and mission of Jesus and relate to the Church as the Communion of Saints.

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 using the illustrations. Divide the poster into sections designating community, Word, worship and service.



Discuss the various ways people around the parish are involved in helping others. Relate their service to Jesus' ministry.



Make a collage of a Church community. Include pictures of the Pope, Bishop, priests, religious and lay men and women, children, etc. Encourage the children to bring pictures of themselves and family members to be used in the collage.



Ask parents to help their children research the life of a saint and prepare a costume to be worn during a parish celebration for All Saints Day.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #7 Creation

Exercise responsible stewardship for the gift of creation.

Performance Indicators

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

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, i.e. Care for a pet, clean up a yard, encourage the family to recycle, etc.



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



Encourage the children to use their own creative abilities to write a poem, a prayer or a song about God's gift of nature and how God wants us to take care of it.



Assist the children in writing a play about God's precious gift of all living things. 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

- ~Explain that Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are sacraments of initiation.
- ~Identify the sacraments of Penance/Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick as sacraments of healing.
- ~Recognize that Matrimony and Holy Orders are sacraments of service and mission.

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 the sacrament shown.



Role play a Baptism with the children and talk about the signs and symbols of the sacrament and how Baptism helps us as new members of the Church.



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



Invite a priest to visit with the children and discuss his life of service to the Church.



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



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 why Eucharist is very important for members of the Church.



Encourage the children to discuss with their parents the importance of attending Mass on Sunday and participating in the Eucharist.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #9 Discipleship

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

Performance Indicators

- ~Explain that Holy Orders is a sacrament of special service and commitment to the Church.
- ~Explain that our baptism calls us 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 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 discuss the unique role each plays in the community.



Make a mobile or paper chain with the children depicting the stories from Jesus' life. Give particular attention to showing how he served others throughout his ministry and discuss this with the children.



Discuss with the children the many ways they can help at home. 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.



Invite a priest to talk about the sacrament of Holy Orders as a sacrament of service.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #10 Human Dignity

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

Performance Indicators

- ~Apply respect for all of humanity to concrete situations.
- ~Examine how we are holy when we care about people, especially those different from ourselves.

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 a collage on poster board of people from different cultural, ethnic and racial backgrounds. Be sure to talk about how each is a child of God.



Invite the children to interview their parents about their own ethnic heritage and then, using a globe, share the information with the other children in your group.



Allow time for the children to draw a large package with themselves inside, as a gift, illustrating some of the gifts God gave them that make them special.



Read the parable of the Good Samaritan. Role play the parable using current events to apply the meaning of the parable to the contemporary reality.

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #11 Human Interaction / Sexuality

Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations.

Performance Indicators

- ~Emphasize that all life is a gift of God that must be respected.
- ~Recall that in the parables Jesus tells us to love one another.

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 the children to make a list of the things each family member does for one another, emphasizing the special talents of each family member and recognizing that they should be respected.



Encourage families to hold hands during morning prayer, meal prayer and bedtime prayer as a sign that we are gifts for each other.



Create and celebrate a prayer service about all life as a gift from God. Include the song, *We are Children of the World*.



Rewrite the lyrics of a familiar song to include way the children can show respect for others.



Help the children act out a scripture story that shows how they can love their friends and families.



Tell the story of The Good Samaritan. 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 Indicators

- ~Memorize that “whatever we do for our brothers and sisters in need we do for Jesus”.
- ~Explain that we share in Jesus’ mission to bring the message of love, justice and hope to the poor, sick and victims of injustice.

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 make cards for shut-ins. Ask the families or the people from the parish who visit the shut-ins to help deliver them.



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 in Jesus’ mission.



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



Role play a Gospel story that shows Jesus caring for the poor and outcasts. Discuss how we might imitate him.

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

~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 indicator?

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

Some Sample Activities



Provide special stationary for the children to use to write a love note to Jesus telling what kind and helpful things they will do for another person this week.



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



Brainstorm with the children about ways they can show God's love at home, school and Church as Jesus asks us to do.



Using scraps of construction paper, have the children make a mosaic showing themselves loving and serving others as Jesus did.



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

Other activities I found useful...



Standard #14 Moral Conscience

Develop a moral conscience informed by Church teachings.

Performance Indicators

- ~Recognize that the Ten Commandments help us to live good lives.
- ~Recall that Jesus sums up the commandments for us in his Law of Love.

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, noting which commandment helped them.



Allow time for the children to talk about what conscience means and how they learn right and wrong. Encourage them to relate incidents when their actions were consistent with Jesus' Law of Love.



Allow time for the children to tell stories about some choices they have made. Identify which were good choices and which were not, noting which commandment helped them.



Help the children memorize Jesus' Law of Love, and encourage them to recite it for their parents at home.



Ask the children to draw a picture of how they feel when they choose to do good.



Read aloud the story of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai. Talk about what each commandment means for daily living.

Other activities I found useful...

Prayer



Standard #15 Catholic Tradition of Prayer
Know and participate in the Catholic tradition of prayer.

Performance Indicators

- ~Recall that God hears our prayers.
- ~Explain that listening to God's Word in Scripture is one way God speaks to us.
- ~Show the difference between spontaneous and liturgical prayer.
- ~Explain the Apostles Creed.

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 because God is always ready to listen.



Read Scripture stories to the children about Jesus praying. Give examples of spontaneous and liturgical prayer.



Invite the children to participate at Mass with their families, and to discuss the readings either before or after the liturgy. Ask them what God is saying.



Ask parents to help the children learn the prayer responses for Mass.



Re-read the Gospel together from Sunday's liturgy and discuss what God is saying to us this week.



Invite the children to interview various adults, asking them to explain their understanding of the Apostles Creed.



Provide opportunities for the children to pray spontaneously, illustrating how this is different from liturgical prayer.

Other activities I found useful...