



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." - Matt. 19:14

THE DISCIPLED CHILD

spiritual
development
guidelines

- NEWBORN
- PRESCHOOL
- GRADES 1 - 2
- GRADES 3 - 4
- GRADES 5 - 6
- SPECIAL NEEDS

A Developmental Characteristic/Outcomes Guide for Parents and Teachers of Our Children Aged Newborn to Grade 6





Train up a child in the way he should go;



even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)



A common practice in many homes is to mark the progress in the growth of children through drawing a line on a doorframe to track their physical development on an annual basis.

This developmental guide has been created to provide parents and teachers the ability to keep track of the spiritual development of the children entrusted to their care.

Over the past year, a representative group of children's pastors have worked on this resource. Their work was then scrutinized by an expanded gathering of children's leaders. We believe what you now hold in your hands will become a useful tool for years to come in our commitment to disciple our children in becoming followers of Jesus... even from early childhood.

Throughout the pages of the Bible, a big deal is made about the importance training up our children according to their specific 'way' or developmental stages (Proverbs 22:6), and in the process to protect and care for them throughout their formative years. (Matthew 18:6)

Jesus admonished adults who felt he didn't have time nor interest in the lives of children around him. Nothing could have been further from the truth. In fact Jesus said, unless we humble ourselves and become like a little children, we will never enter the Kingdom of heaven! (Matthew 18:3)

Each page that follows covers a different age category from newborn to age 12 (Grade 6) with descriptions of what children of that age can learn and the outcomes or responses to be expected.

A page has been included in supporting those children with special needs who may need extra support in their development and bonus material about how to lead a child to Christ has been added.

We believe this tool is a starting point to educate and enable us all to care for the development of our children in obedience to the teaching of Scripture.

In the space provided you are also encouraged to make specific notes related to your child(ren) as they develop spiritually.

May God hold us accountable for the children within our care in these days.

The initial working group of children's pastors who joined us on this project included:

Crystal Sylvester - First Alliance
Coreen Frey - Spruce Grove Alliance
Donna Hernandez - Sherwood Park Alliance
Faye Vecino - River of Life Alliance
Heather Yule - Cochrane Alliance

Krista Fountain - Barrhead Alliance
Jon Van Koughnett - Deerpark Alliance
Stephanie Holmberg - Beulah Alliance
Wendy Ng - District Office Admin Assistant

Pam Loeppky - St. Albert Alliance Church
Vicky Leung - Westside Calgary Chinese Alliance Church
Rev. Dr. Tim Beadle (Church Effectiveness Coach)



THE DISCIPLED
spiritual
development
guidelines CHILD

THE DISCIPLED CHILD

spiritual development guidelines



EARLY CHILDHOOD



- Show God's love by personal connection (holding, rocking, singing, playing)
- Pray for child and their families
- Offer consistency in care to build trust with child

TRINITY

God

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God is good.
- God made me.
- God loves me.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- I love God.

Jesus

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God chose a family for Jesus.
- Jesus was born.
- Jesus grew and had a family.
- Jesus went to church and learned about God.
- Jesus helped people because He loved them.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- Jesus loves me.

Holy Spirit

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

CRITICAL UNDERSTANDING

Bible

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- The Bible is a special book.
- The Bible tells about God and Jesus.
- People in the Bible told about God.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- The Bible helps me know what to do.

Creation

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God made day, night, plants, sky, sun, moon, stars, animals, water, birds, and fish.
- God made people.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- God wants me to thank Him for the things He made.

Sin / Salvation

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- People do bad things that makes Jesus sad.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- Say sorry to Jesus

RELATIONSHIP

Family

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God made and loves my family.
- My family loves and helps me.
- My family teaches me about God.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- My family helps others.

Self

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God made me.
- I am special.
- God loves me.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- I can grow like Jesus grew and I can talk to Him.

Church

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- People at church love God and Jesus
- We can go to church.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- People at church love and teach me.

Community/ World

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God made people.
- People work together.
- People tell about God and Jesus.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- I can help others.

THE DISCIPLED CHILD

spiritual development guidelines



PRESCHOOL



- Show God's love by personal connection (holding, rocking, singing, playing)
- Pray for child and their families
- Offer consistency in care to build trust with child

TRINITY

God

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God is good.
- God made everything.
- God loves me and is with me.
- God talks to me.
- God hears me.
- God loves all people.
- God teaches me how to live.
- God wants people to sing and pray to Him.
- God wants people to do what He says.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- I can talk to God.
- I can listen to God.
- I can share.
- I can obey.

Jesus

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- Angels told Mary and Joseph that Jesus would be born.
- Jesus was sent to earth by God.
- Jesus grew like me.
- Jesus read the Bible at Church.
- Jesus taught people about God.
- Jesus did things that people cannot do.
- Jesus is God's son.
- Jesus did everything that God told him to do.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- Jesus loves all people.
- Jesus wants people to love Him.

Holy Spirit

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- The Holy Spirit is God 'inside of us'.
- God sent the Holy Spirit to be with us when Jesus went back to heaven.
- The Holy Spirit is our helper.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- The Holy Spirit helps me.
- I can hear Him speak to me (listening prayer).

CRITICAL UNDERSTANDING

Bible

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- The stories in the Bible are real.
- I can learn about God and Jesus from the Bible
- People in the Bible wrote about God.
- The Bible is for everyone.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- The Bible helps me know the right things to do.

Creation

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God made everything.
- God made people different from the other things He made.
- God planned for people, animals and plants to grow.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- God wants people to care for the things He made.
- God made the world for people to enjoy.
- God wants me to thank Him for people, animals, plants and things in the world.

Sin / Salvation

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- When I do bad things, that is called sin.
- Jesus died for my sin.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- I can ask Jesus to forgive my sins.

Family

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God's plan for families is found in the Bible.
- God loves and cares for my family.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- God wants family members to love one another.
- I can do what my parents tell me to do.
- Family members help one another.
- My family can help other people.

Self

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- I am growing.
- I am special because God made me.
- God made me so I can think, work, and play.
- God will always love me.
- God has a plan for me.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- I can make the right choice with Jesus' help.
- I can pray.
- I can do some things like Jesus.
- I can take turns and learn to share.
- I can do what God wants me to do.

Church

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- People learn about God and Jesus at Church.
- People at church love each other and teach about God and Jesus.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- People at church help other people.
- People thank God at church.
- People give money at church.

Community/ World

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God made people alike and different.
- International Workers are people who tell other people about God and Jesus.
- God wants people to work together. People have different kind of work to do.
- All people are important to God.
- I can give money to help other people learn about God and Jesus.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- I can help others around me.
- I can ask God to help others.
- I can tell others about Jesus.

RELATIONSHIP

THE DISCIPLED CHILD

spiritual development guidelines



GRADES 1-2

CONNECT / ENVIRONMENT

- Show's God's love through interactive engagement in play
- Pray for child and their families
- Offer consistency in care to build trust with child

God

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God is special. No one is like him.
- God is creator.
- God is everywhere.
- God hears and answers me.
- God has concern and care for all people.
- God loves and forgives people.
- God wants people to pray and worship him.
- God is powerful.
- God is real, the only true God.
- God wants me to obey, respect, and honor him.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- I can trust God.
- I am never alone.
- I can talk to God anytime.

Jesus

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- Prophets in the Old Testament told that Jesus would be born.
- Jesus grew in mind, body and in relationships with God and with others.
- Jesus taught that God's house is a house of prayer.
- Jesus shows me through his life and teachings what God is like.
- Jesus performed miracles, healed the sick, and restored life.
- Jesus died on the cross, and God raised Jesus from the dead.
- Jesus is the only Son of God, and He was sent to be the Savior of all people.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- Jesus wants people to follow him.

Holy Spirit

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- The Holy Spirit is a special helper.
- God's spirit worked in Old Testament times.
- God showed his approval of Jesus by sending the dove at Jesus' baptism.
- Jesus promised the early believers that God would send the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- The Holy Spirit helps people to do the right thing.

TRINITY

CRITICAL UNDERSTANDING

Bible

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- Bible truths never change.
- The Bible helps me know more about God and Jesus.
- God helped people know what to write in the Bible.
- The Bible tells what Jesus is like and how to be like Him.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- The Bible helps me understand how God wants me to live.
- The Bible tells me what God wants me to do through verses and stories about people and events.
- The Bible has truth and meaning for me.
- I should read the Bible and remember God's Word.

Creation

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day.
- God created people able to think and solve problems.
- God wants people to take care of His world.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- God wants me to feel a sense of wonder as I enjoy His creation.
- God wants me to praise Him for His creation.

Sin / Salvation

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- Sin separates us from God.
- Jesus paid for my mistakes by dying on the cross.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- We can ask God for forgiveness
- I can ask Jesus to become my Savior.

RELATIONSHIP

Family

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God's plan for families is mothers and fathers to raise children and love one another.
- God helps me know how to honor and obey my parents.
- God loves and cares for families in all kinds of situations.
- Each person in my family deserves love and respect.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- Each family member has their own work.
- God wants families to worship together.
- God wants me to treat family members fairly and with kindness.
- My family can show God's love and care for other people.

Self

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- My birth and growth are part of God's plan.
- People are God's most important creation.
- Good and bad happen to me, but God still loves me.
- God has a plan for my life.
- God wants me to obey Him in actions, attitudes and words.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- I can be trusted to make some good choices.
- I can use my talents and abilities in ways that please and honor God.
- God wants me to pray and read the Bible.
- I follow Jesus' example when I obey God.
- God wants me to live every day in ways that please Him
- I need to take good care of my body because God created me.
- When I hurt others, I can ask them to forgive me.

Church

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- The church is more than a building; it is Christians who do God's work.
- Church leaders teach about God and Jesus.
- My church helps meet the needs of other people in our community and around the world.
- The Lord's Supper is also known as communion. We do this to remember what Jesus did for us.
- Baptism shows that people have accepted Jesus as their Savior.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- People worship at church and bring tithes and offerings.
- Church members have different responsibilities.
- I am a part of the church family.

Community/ World

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God's world is made up of people from different nationalities and cultures.
- International Workers are Christians who share the good news with people in this country and around the world.
- God wants people to treat one another fairly and with kindness.
- God wants people to give tithes and offerings so that people of all nationalities can learn about God and Jesus.
- God wants people to give and accept forgiveness from others.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- God wants people to be involved in His work in the world.
- God wants people to pray by name for International Workers and people groups.
- God wants me to cooperate and work with others willingly.
- God wants people to tell others in their communities and schools about Jesus and invite them to church.

THE DISCIPLED CHILD

spiritual development guidelines



GRADES 3-4



- Show's God's love through age appropriate interaction in activity centers
- Pray for child and their families
- Offer consistency in care to build trust with child

TRINITY

God

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God is unique - no one and nothing can be compared to Him.
- As creator, God is to be praised.
- God is everywhere at all times.
- God loves and values all people.
- God loves people enough to provide forgiveness for sin.
- God is worthy of praise and worship.
- God is almighty.
- God is faithful and just.
- God is all-knowing.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- God hears people's prayers and communicates with them.
- God deserves respect, obedience and honor.

Jesus

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- Old Testament prophets revealed God's plan for Jesus to be the Savior.
- Jesus came to earth as God in human form.
- Jesus understands what it means to be human.
- Jesus taught that worship is focused on God alone.
- Jesus taught about faith, trust, and obedience to God.
- Jesus died to pay the penalty for sin.
- Jesus performed miracles because He is God's Son.
- Jesus is the only Son of God, and He was sent to be my Savior.
- Jesus was tempted by Satan but did not sin.
- Jesus promised His followers that He would come back to earth.
- The ascension describes Jesus' return to heaven.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- Jesus wants people to trust Him.

Holy Spirit

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- The Holy Spirit helps people in times of trouble.
- God showed his approval of Jesus by sending the dove at Jesus' baptism.
- God's sends the Holy Spirit and He is with us everywhere we go.
- The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost to give power to believers.
- The Holy Spirit helps people to understand God's plan of Salvation.
- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God.
- The Holy Spirit enters the Christian's life when they accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord.
- The Holy Spirit helped Bible writers know what to write.
- The Holy Spirit helps believers grow as Christians.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- The Holy Spirit helps believers tell others about Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit reminds us what we learn from the Bible.

CRITICAL UNDERSTANDING

Bible

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- The teachings in the Bible will last forever.
- The Bible is God's message.
- God inspired people who wrote the Bible.
- The Bible tells me that Jesus died on a cross, was buried, and was raised from the dead.
- The Bible tells me how people's lives were affected by their response to God.
- Every person can find truth and meaning in God's Word.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- The Bible tells me how to live the Christian life.

Creation

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God created the world from nothing.
- God created people in His own image.
- People can accept increasing responsibility for taking care of God's World.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- Understanding what God is like comes by discovering the things He created.

Sin / Salvation

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- The Holy Spirit convicts me of sin.
- I can continue to grow in my relationship with Jesus.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- I can trust the prompting of the Holy Spirit in my life.
- Jesus is my Savior and my friend.

RELATIONSHIP

Family

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- The first responsibility of mothers and fathers is to teach their children about God.
- God's plan is for parents to lead families.
- God loves and cares for families in all kinds of situations.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- Each family member should make a contribution in a positive way.
- Worshiping together can help families grow stronger.
- God's love helps me consider my family before myself.
- My family can show love and care to other people regardless of their circumstances.

Self

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- I am created in the image of God.
- Each person is unique and of value to God.
- God's plan for my life is that I accept Jesus as Savior and Lord and obey Him.
- I can learn about and recognize God's authority.
- God wants me to have pure thoughts and actions.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- I am responsible for my choices.
- I can develop and use my abilities and talents in ways that please and honor God.
- God wants me to communicate with Him through praying and reading the Bible.
- I can follow the examples, teachings, and commandments of Jesus.
- I can learn to love others as I love myself.
- I am learning to respond in positive ways to what happens to me.
- I need to take care of my body and mind to honor God.
- I can recognize and reject wrong actions and wrong influences of others.
- I am able to admit that I have hurt others and ask them to forgive me.

Church

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- A church is a group of people who meet together to pray, to tell other people about Jesus, to worship God, to learn from the Bible, to meet the needs of others, and to encourage one another.
- Church leaders are called by God to do His work.
- God uses the church to accomplish His purposes in the world today.
- The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the church. The Lord's Supper is a way to remind people about what Jesus did. Believers participate in the Communion.
- Baptism is an ordinance of the church that shows that people have accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord.
- Present Four Fold Gospel.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- People have responsibilities to participate in worship services, to pray for their church, and to give money for the work of their church.
- I am a part of the Body of Christ.
- Jesus is my Saviour.
- Jesus is my Sanctifier.
- Jesus is my Healer.
- Jesus is my Coming King.

Community/ World

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God values people of all nationalities and cultures.
- God wants people to respect the rights and property of others. God wants people to treat others as they would want to be treated.
- God wants people to give their time, talents and possessions in addition to money so that others can learn about God and Jesus.
- God wants people to tell others with different beliefs about Jesus and what He has done for them.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- God wants people to be involved in His work in their community and the world by participating in mission activities.
- All Christians are called to tell the people of the world about Jesus.
- God wants people to pray for specific needs of International Workers and people groups.

THE DISCIPLED CHILD

spiritual development guidelines



GRADES 5-6

CONNECT / ENVIRONMENT

- Show's God's love by building a relationship of trust through interactive games and conversation
- Pray for child and their families
- Offer consistency in care to build trust with child

God

Jesus

Holy Spirit

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God is eternal, holy and perfect.
- God the creator is to be worshiped, not His creations.
- God is omnipresent.
- God knows the desires of my heart but still wants me to pray.
- God's care and concern exist regardless of people's circumstances.
- God's love is not limited by time, space, culture, or ethnicity.
- God proved His unconditional love for people through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- Because God deserves respect, obedience, and honor, God nurtures and disciplines Christians.
- God is omnipotent.
- God is righteous.
- God is omniscient.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- God wants people to worship Him with all their hearts, souls, minds and strength.

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- God planned for Jesus from the beginning of time.
- Jesus was born of a virgin.
- Jesus was God in human form.
- Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection were a necessary part of God's plan for the forgiveness of sin.
- Jesus is the Messiah and Savior, and God sent Him to fulfill His promise of redemption.
- Jesus is holy and perfect.
- Jesus will return to earth someday.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- Jesus taught that true worshipers must worship in spirit and truth.
- Jesus wants people to be transformed by Him.

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- The Holy Spirit is the comforter.
- The Holy Spirit was present in Jesus' life and ministry.
- God's was active in creation.
- The Holy Spirit helps people to know, understand, and remember all things about God.
- The Holy Spirit urges people to accept God's salvation.
- The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit inspired Bible writers and breathed God's Word.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- The Holy Spirit helps believers grow in their relationships with God and with others
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to tell others about Jesus and His plan of salvation.

TRINITY

CRITICAL UNDERSTANDING

Bible

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- The Bible is eternal.
- The Bible is God's message about Himself.
- The Bible is the only written Word of God.
- The Bible tells me that salvation through Jesus is God's gift.
- The Bible is for all people of all languages, ethnicities, and cultures.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- The Bible applies to personal and social issues.
- The Bible is relevant to my life today.

Creation

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- Creation can be credited to God only.
- God created people in His own image.
- God's created order is governed by His laws.
- God helps people to discover and understand His creation.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- God wants me to feel secure because He made the world, is still at work in it, and cares what happens to me.

Sin / Salvation

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- I am redeemed through Jesus death on the Cross.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- I can take deliberate actions to ask for forgiveness and restore relationships.
- God expects me to remain pure in all aspects of my life.

Family

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- Families are part of God's plan for providing my physical, spiritual, mental, social, and emotional needs.
- Understanding that each family member is a person of significance and worth can help me relate to them.
- God's plan is for parents to lead families according to His Word and will.
- God loves and cares for families in all kinds of situations.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- Each person in my family has a contribution to make to the family.
- God wants me to help lead my family in worship.
- God wants me to show love, respect, cooperation, and consideration for all persons in my family.
- My family can show God's love and care to other people regardless of their circumstances by ministering to their needs.

Self

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- Life is a gift from God.
- I can appreciate my value as a person God loves.
- God will help Christians know and use their spiritual gifts.
- I can understand and follow God's specific plan for my life.
- I can acknowledge and follow God's authority in my life.
- My body is God's temple.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- I can take responsibility for my choices and their consequences.
- God wants me to communicate with Him and study the Bible daily.
- I can take deliberate actions to grow in Christlikeness.
- I am accountable to God for the way I treat other people.
- I can live a life that is evidenced by the Fruit of the Spirit.

Church

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- The Church is a fellowship of baptized believers where all people are welcomed and wanted. The functions of the church are evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry and worship.
- Churches ordain people to do certain tasks.
- Believers are to take God's message into the world.
- Each believer is given one or more spiritual gifts. Believers use spiritual gifts to do God's work.
- The body and blood of Jesus are represented in the Lord's Supper.
- Baptism by immersion is a symbol of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- Corporate worship is the responsibility of all church members.

Community/ World

LEARN / KNOWLEDGE

- Because God values people of all nationalities and cultures, I will respect and value each person.
- Stewardship of money, time, talents, and possessions helps others learn about God and Jesus.
- God helps people to share their faith in Jesus with those who have different beliefs.

RESPONSES / OUTCOME

- God wants people to join Him in what He is doing in the world.
- All Christians are called to be on mission with God.
- God wants people to pray consistently for International Workers and people groups and for their personal involvement in missions.
- God wants people to look for opportunities to help people of all ethnicities, and cultures.

RELATIONSHIP

THE DISCIPLED CHILD

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SPECIAL NEEDS



CONNECT /
ENVIRONMENT

- To create an environment where faith is acquired and grown, where relationships are formed and God's grace and love is experienced

Approach

- Your most effective tool in helping a student is a positive attitude.
- Love the child. Greet them with enthusiasm and show genuine interest in them. Be happy to see them.
- Don't try to diagnose the child.
- Ask what the child needs, and do your best to provide it. Commit to partner with the parents.
- Include the child. A child with special needs often doesn't participate in the same way typical kids do, but they want to be included. We may need to let go of rigid rules and be flexible.
- Work with the child as a partner.

Communication

- When working with special needs children, it is essential to have open communications. Do not be afraid to ask parents and caregivers the following questions:
 - How does the child communicate best? Can he or she talk or do they prefer to use gestures or pictures?
 - What can we do to make snack time easier for your family?
 - How can we make trips to the restroom easier for the child?
 - Are there things at church that concern you and your child, for example, is your child sensitive to noise, smell and touch, etc?
 - What are the things your child enjoys doing?

ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER (ADD) & ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD)

Characteristics

- Difficulty concentrating if things are going on around them.
- Does not pay attention to the details.
- Makes careless mistakes.
- Has trouble staying focused; is easily distracted.
- Appears not to listen when spoken to.
- Has difficulty remembering things and following instructions.
- Has trouble staying organized, planning ahead, and finishing projects.
- Gets bored with a task before it is completed.
- Frequently loses or misplaces homework, books, toys, or other items.
- Constantly fidgets and squirms.
- Often leaves his or her seat in situations where sitting quietly is expected.
- Moves around constantly, often runs or climbs inappropriately.
- Talks excessively.
- Has difficulty playing quietly or relaxing.
- Is always "on the go", as if driven by a motor.
- May have a quick temper or a "short fuse".

Teaching Strategies

- Provide a calm quiet environment to help them stay focused.
- Provide an environment that is uncluttered, orderly and predictable.
- Post rules, schedules, and assignments in the room.
- Establish clear routines; when things are going to change, let them know.
- Integrate physically active and multi-sensory learning experiences into your lessons.
- Provide some kind of fidget toy for times when the child has to listen.
- Give instructions visually as well as verbally.
- Be intentional about establishing positive, loving relationships.

AUTISM

Characteristics

- Many children with Autism have substantial problems with communication.
- Children with Autism may have difficulty following spoken directions unless linked with visual supports.
- Most children with Autism have difficulties with learning and generalizing what is learned.
- Many children with Autism use what is known as echolalia, the repetition of words or phrases.
- Children with Autism may avoid eye contact.
- Children with autism may have one or more disturbance of the sensory system.

Teaching Strategies

- Structure and order are key components to success for the child with autism.
- A child with autism needs a routine that they can depend on.
- Children with autism respond better to information presented in visual form.
- Children with autism need to know that the experience in your classroom is going to be consistent and predictable.
- When you speak to a child with autism, bend at the waist so that your face is eye-level to theirs. They may not engage in eye contact with you but this communication style is important.
- Many children with autism are sensitive to loud noises.
- Many children with autism have defensive sensory systems. They may be hyper sensitive to things like touch.

LEARNING DISABILITIES

Characteristics

- A child with learning disabilities may have a significant problem in one or more of the basic processes involved in understanding or using spoken or written language.
- These children may be uncomfortable reading aloud and make mistakes. They often do not comprehend what they have read.
- Spelling and handwriting may be difficult and they may struggle expressing their ideas in writing.
- Children with learning disabilities have the potential to learn at their own intellectual level, but academic achievement is often below that potential.
- Children with learning disabilities have trouble understanding jokes, sarcasm and any type of non-literal language.
- Children with learning disabilities may have difficulty organizing what they want to say and they may not follow the social rules of conversations such as turn taking.

Teaching Strategies

- Breaking large tasks into smaller steps is an effective strategy.
- Respond well to a predictable, consistent routine and a well-organized environment.
- Use visual cues to assist your verbal instructions.
- Summarize your material often.
- Have children summarize the material in ways other than verbal repetition. They could use drawing, painting a mural, playdough, or even acting it out.
- Do not assume this child knows the classroom rules. Be sure to review the rules.

THE DISCIPLED CHILD

spiritual
development
guidelines



Leading a Child To Christ



It is a great honor to talk with any child about his or her relationship with Jesus. In fact, as parents and children workers, we need to be ready to present a clear explanation of the Gospel and to provide opportunities for children to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

When a child seems to have a basic understanding of salvation (belief in Jesus' death and Resurrection, admission of and repentance from sin, and a desire to follow the Lord), encourage him or her to talk about what it means to become a child of God. To begin, encourage the child to ask questions as they are a starting point for a child to begin a life-long conversation about faith. Encourage the child to verbalize his or her understanding to the Lord through prayer, this is especially important for a child who comes from non-Christian background.

Because there is no single prayer that should be prayed, just encourage the child to tell God he or she is a sinner, to ask the Lord for forgiveness and to express the need of the Lord Jesus and believe that Jesus died for his or her sin.

The Bible says, "For God so loved the World that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life." John 3: 16 lays the foundation of God's love for us.

WHAT TO SAY:

1. GOD LOVED

- God loved you before you were even born. You were created in God's image. You are loved beyond measure.
- But we are all separated from God because of something called sin (Romans 3:23). It is the things that we do wrong.
- But God loves us, He does not want us to be separated from Him, instead He wants us to receive His gift.

ASK:

- What is sin?
- Have you sinned?
- Why is sin a problem?

2. GOD GAVE

- God gave His most precious gift for you (1 John 1: 7).
- Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins.
- Jesus died, but He rose three days later to defeat death (1 Cor. 15:3-4). His death makes it possible for us to have a relationship with God.

ASK:

- What gift did God give us?
- Why would God give us His most precious gift?
- What did Jesus do for us?

3. ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM

- You must accept the gift - receive it and open it. You can open that gift by believing in Jesus!
- When you trust Jesus, you are believing in Jesus.
- To accept the gift of Jesus you are saying that you believe that He died for you, He conquered death and rose again for you!

ASK:

- How do we accept a gift?
- What does it mean to trust?
- How do you know God loves you?

WHAT NOT TO SAY:

- Avoid using terms like 'Invite Jesus into my heart'. Kids are concrete thinkers.
- Avoid making them say certain things. Rather, guide them in having a conversation with their best friend. Praying to God is like talking to their best friend.

Be honest! If children ask you a question that you do not know, tell them that together you will pray about it and read Scripture and seek Jesus together. Be honest that Jesus continues to reveal Himself as we grow to know Him better.

Notes: _____



Notes: _____

My Children's Ministry Contact List:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____





The Christian and Missionary
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