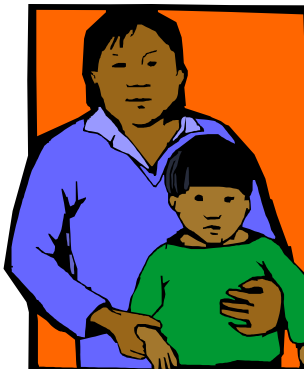


Christchurch Baha'i Children's Classes

Playgroup Lessons

For children aged 0-4 Years
and their parents/grandparents



"From the very beginning, the children must receive divine education and must continually be reminded to remember their God. Let the love of God pervade their inmost being, commingled with their mothers milk."

'Abdu'l-Baha

Children's Classes Playgroup Lessons

For ages 0-4 years.

Developed by Megan McMahon in Christchurch, NZ 2000 – 2008

Other resources utilised for parts of these lesson plans include:

“Enkindle – A Baha’i Programme for The Spiritual Education of Children aged 3-5.” by Ruth Gordon-Smith 2006

“The Virtues – Activity and Colouring Book” by Cindy Pacileo 2005

Various Books and CD’s mentioned in the lesson plans.

Notes:

The 5 elements that are used in the Ruhi Curriculum are incorporated into these lesson plans however there is more emphasis on Play activities rather than Games or Drama. The elements of Prayer, Memorisation, and Stories are kept brief and art activities are kept as simple as possible given the developmental ages of the children. There is more emphasis on music and free-play activities.

The core activities of prayer, memorisation, story and song are repeated between 2 –5 times in various lessons and the art and play activities are varied to keep the children interested. These core activities should take no longer than 15 to 20 minutes so that children can then move on to art and play activities which may take 40-45 minutes.

It has been used with parents or grandparents participating in the class as well, so that the parents remain the first educators and the teacher is merely a facilitator of the activities and resources put out for the playgroup. This means that we have a ratio of 1 adult to 1 or 2 children. It is therefore important for the group size to be kept under 12 children so that it does not become intimidating for the children.

No child is pressured to do an activity that s/he is too shy or not able to do. Children are encouraged to participate by attractive activities being available and the pace of the activities set according to their interests. Eg If a child was not interested in the art activity the play activity would be set out much sooner.

Play activities should be child– led with the adults talking about the virtue that may be practiced during the play activities. Eg “You are being very helpful setting the table” while a child is playing with a tea-set and playdough.

The material covers approximately 40 lessons designed to be delivered fortnightly over 2 years and then repeated. It could also be delivered weekly and repeated each year.

Contents

1. Knowing God (5 lessons) - aims to establish conversation between adults and children that will foster the child's relationship with their Creator.

2. Prayerfulness (4 lessons) – aims to help parents value the importance of daily prayer in their child's life as a way of connecting with their Creator.

The following Virtues lessons have been selected as they are virtues that children display or learn at this age, and therefore the lessons will help to name the virtue that they are demonstrating.

3. Kindness (4 lessons)

4. Courtesy (4 lessons)

5. Obedience (2 lessons)

6. Cleanliness (2 lessons)

7. Joyfulness (2 lessons)

8. Friendliness (3 lessons)

9. Service (3 lessons)

10. Orderliness (2-3 lessons)

11. Love (3 lessons)

12. Generosity (2 lessons)

13. Patience (2 lessons)

14. Courage (2 lessons)

These lesson plans are still in development as each has varying amounts of resource material attached to it. So please consider this a draft copy. Many thanks, Megan.