

## PHILOSOPHY

The Early Childhood Program focuses on preschool children aged 3, 4 and 5. The young child at this age is able to relate to the care and love of God through self-identity, nature and the love of others.

The Early Childhood Faith Formation program focuses on teaching catechists HOW to help young children grow in their awareness of God - God the Creator, God the Loving Parent, God the Friend and the Wonderful World of God.



## Guidelines for the Early Childhood Program

The Early Childhood program provides the following guidelines which promote child development principles, age appropriate activities and Catholic faith development.

1. Teachers should be certified.
2. Class size should be maintained as follows:
  - 3 year olds - maximum of 8
  - 4 year olds - maximum of 10
  - 5 year olds - maximum of 12
3. The principal catechist must be an adult.
4. Parents need to understand and support the philosophy of the program.
5. A list of recommended textbooks and materials is available upon request.
6. Creative art experiences, music and movement activities should be used as often as possible.
7. Each lesson should be carefully planned.
8. Spontaneous prayer is the heart of every lesson and should be inserted throughout the class.
9. While scriptural themes are basic to the program, scriptural readings are not appropriate for this age group.
10. Strong, positive images of God are stressed.
11. Special celebrations are planned with the level of the child in mind.
12. Human, concrete experiences from the everyday life of the child form the basic "content" of this religion-readiness program.

To learn more about our guidelines, call or email the Early Childhood Coordinator and participate in our next Specialization!

## Early Childhood Faith Formation



**"I ASSURE YOU,  
UNLESS YOU  
CHANGE AND  
BECOME LIKE  
LITTLE CHILDREN,  
YOU WILL NOT  
ENTER THE  
KINGDOM OF GOD."**

**MATTHEW 18:2**



**Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
Office of Religious Education  
3424 Wilshire Blvd. 4th floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2202  
(213) 637-7352**

## Early Childhood Specialization

Our specialization series is a 20 hour program which helps the catechist to learn what and how to catechize young 3, 4 & 5 year old children. Components of the series include:

- Philosophy
- Classroom Organization & Lesson Planning
- Affirmative Discipline
- Storytelling
- Music & Movement
- Table Celebrations
- Children under Stress
- Themes Involving the Senses
- Talking & Listening Skills
- Creative Art Experiences
- God's Gift of Feelings and Emotions
- Themes of Family Friends and Community
- Environmental Awareness
- Themes Involving Elements:  
Air, Light, Water & Earth
- Themes Involving Animals
- Themes Involving Plants & Seasons
- Exploring Death to Young Children
- Easter as the New Life of Spring
- Closing Non-Eucharistic Celebration
- Parents as the Primary Religious Educators of Their Children



## Other Workshops Available

The Early Childhood Consultant and members of the Early Childhood Advisory Board are available to facilitate workshops on any of the early childhood specialization areas as well as the workshop titles listed below:

- \* We're Not just Babysitters
- \*Program Management
- \*Positive Discipline
- \*Early Childhood: Ages, Stages & Faith Development
- \*Young Children's Spirituality
- \*Secular & Liturgical Year with Young Children
- \*Creative Crafts for Early Childhood
- \*Finding the God Message in Secular Stories
- \*Recognizing & Maximizing Teachable Moments
- \*Spontaneous Prayer for Children and Families
- \*Multiple Intelligence in Young Children
- \*Children in Family Crises
- \*Nurturing Parents & Volunteers
- \*Developing Family Traditions
- \*Alternatives to Commercialized Christmas
- \*Morals, Manners & Ethnic Appreciation
- \*Resources
- \*Other Topics on Request



## Regional Networking

To maximize the activities within each region, we hold networking meetings once each year within each Region. These meetings help early childhood catechist to learn current early childhood research, fresh creative classroom ideas and provide opportunities to connect with other early childhood professionals.

## Information & Scheduling

We'd love to hear from you!!!

To schedule a workshop at your parish, attend one of our specialization series or regional network meetings, or to have your name added to our mailing list, call the Early Childhood Coordinator at:

**(213) 637-7352**



[icpedroza@la-archdiocese.org](mailto:icpedroza@la-archdiocese.org)





# Office of Religious Education

## Early Childhood Faith Formation

Early Childhood Faith Formation focuses on forming catechists how to assist preschool children ages 3/4/5 to grow in their awareness of God through self-identity, nature and the love of others.

Our Ministry serves Coordinators of Sunday Preschool formation, catechists, teachers, parents and those who love teaching our faith to young children.

Please visit our ORE website for updated locations of EC Specializations and other workshops offered by the Early Childhood Advisory Board.



**Jan Pedroza** Coordinator ~ Early Childhood Faith Formation

213-637-7352 (office) / [www.archla.org/ore](http://www.archla.org/ore)

[jcpedroza@la-archdiocese.org](mailto:jcpedroza@la-archdiocese.org)

FB: Early Childhood Ministry of LA Archdiocese

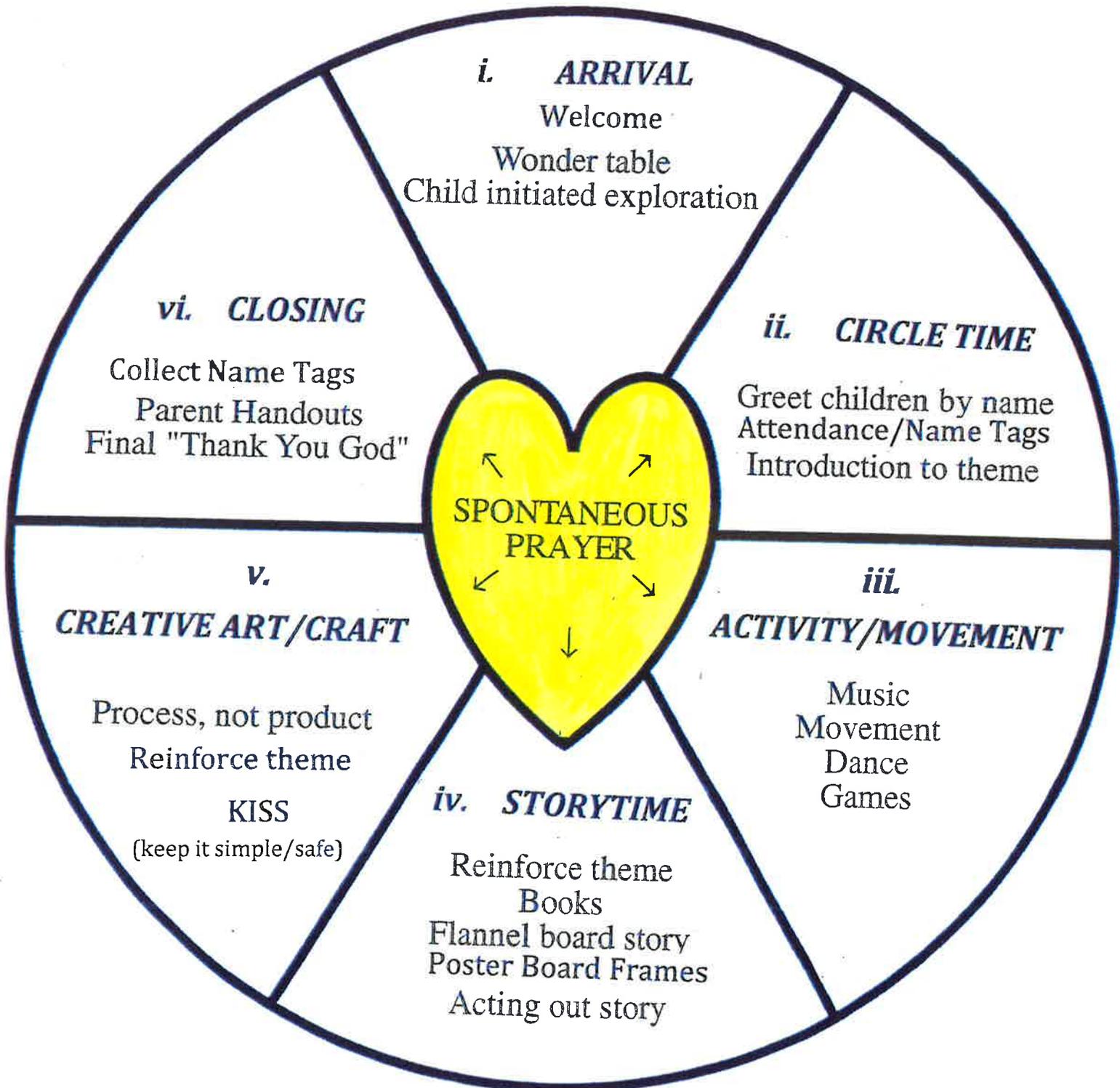
## Early Childhood Advisory Board of Los Angeles Mission Statement

The Early Childhood Advisory Board of the Los Angeles Archdiocese believes that one of the essential parts of building a solid faith foundation in young children is to introduce the child to “pray and play” experiences that allow them to live and grow with positive images of God and the church family. Our Mission is to continue to spread the message of God’s infinite love to young children by sharing the wonder and beauty of God’s wonderful world. The Early Childhood Advisory Board strives to serve the needs of the parish communities of the Archdiocese, by offering catechists, educators and parish leaders hands-on training in the development and implementation of age-appropriate programs for children ages 3, 4 and 5.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD FAITH FORMATION

## Lesson Planning Wheel



Spontaneous Prayer is the *heart* of every lesson

# *Lesson Planning Overview*

Theme of Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Checklist for Items Needed**

Wonder Table: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Circle Time: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Activity/Movement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Story Time: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Art/Craft: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Closing: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Plan Your Time!**

i. Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

ii. Circle Time: \_\_\_\_\_

iii. Activity/Movement: \_\_\_\_\_

iv. Storytime: \_\_\_\_\_

v. Art Craft: \_\_\_\_\_

vi. Closing: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Puppy Who Was Afraid of Thunder

(Puppy Prop) Once there was a *cute*, little puppy who was very *friendly* and liked everything. Everything except one thing...THUNDER! Whenever the little puppy saw a big black cloud in the sky he knew that there would be thunder and he would run and hide because he was so *scared!* All of the puppy's friends thought that he was *silly!* One day, the puppy went for a long walk. It was a very hot day and the puppy felt *tired* and *thirsty*. He looked around for some water but everything was very dry. The puppy felt *dizzy* and needed a drink!

(Black Cloud & Clapper Prop) Suddenly, the little puppy heard thunder! It was so loud, it *frightened* him so! More thunder rolled out of the sky and the puppy began to run.

(Frog Prop) The puppy stopped when he saw a frog in his path. "Croak", said the frog, very *happy!* "I am glad to hear the thunder because next it will rain and the pond where I live won't be so dry and I can play". The puppy was *surprised* to hear that the frog was *glad* to hear the thunder, but he kept on running.

(Duck Prop) The puppy saw a duck full of *glee*, "Quack, quack", said the duck, "Hooray for the thunder, hooray! Now I can go swimming and play in the mud as soon as it rains!" Now the little puppy seemed *puzzled*. Hmmm... why are the frog and duck so *excited* about the thunder?

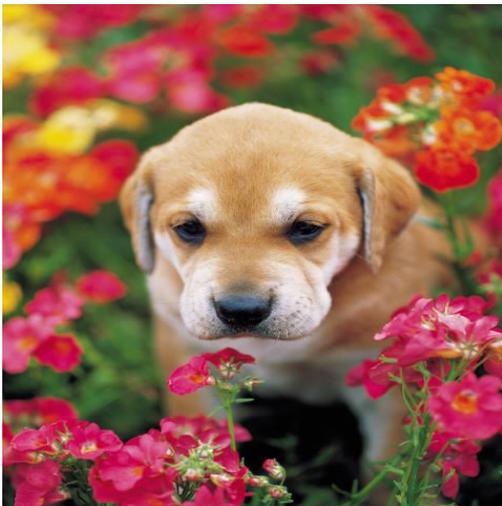
(discuss with the children... what do they think?)

The puppy thought... when it thunders, there is rain and rain is good! It helps the flowers grow, it fills the ponds and lakes so the frog and the duck can play and swim. And, the little puppy said, a bit *frazzled*, if it rained, I could have a drink of water!

(Rain Stick/Spray Bottle Prop) Well, sure enough, the rain came and filled up the pond and the lake, which made the frog and the duck very *happy!* The little puppy heard more thunder, but this time, he was not scared and did not run. He walked *calmly* and looked up at the black clouds and said, "I am not afraid of you anymore, thunder!" He stuck his tongue out so that he could wet it with the raindrops and got the drink he was looking for!

The little puppy *smiled* and said, "Thank you God for thunder! Thank you God for rain!"

Themes Covered:      Feelings and Emotions  
                                 Friendship  
                                 Talking and Listening



# Early Childhood Faith Formation 2017

## SPRING SPECIALIZATION



**Where: St. Andrew Church (Auditorium)**  
42 Chestnut Street  
Pasadena, CA 91103  
**Contact:** Isabel Spillane, DRE  
626.768.9376

**Dates:** *Saturdays: March 18, April 1 and 8*  
**Time:** *8:45 am – 4:00 pm*

**For Info:** *Jan Pedroza, Early Childhood Coordinator*  
213.637.7352/email: JCPedroza@la-archdiocese.org  
*Diana Salinas, Administrative Secretary*  
213.637.7303/email: dmsalinas@la-archdiocese.org  
**Office of Religious Education Website:** <http://archla.org/org/ec>

**Fee:** \$55.00 – includes registration, handbook, materials & hospitality  
Please use your favorite navigator app for directions to St. Andrew's!

 **2017 EC SPRING SPECIALIZATION REGISTRATION FORM**

(Please print clearly for computer input)

First Name	_____	Last Name	_____
Address	_____		
City	_____	State/Zip code	_____
Home Phone	_____	Cell Phone	_____
E-mail	_____		
Parish Name	_____	Parish City/zip	_____

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable and mail to:**  
Office of Religious Education  
Attn: Jan Pedroza  
3424 Wilshire Blvd., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

## EARLY CHILDHOOD FAITH FORMATION/SPECIALIZATION CURRICULUM

### LESSON 1 - Philosophy of ECC, Program Guidelines

This hour covers not only the WHY and HOW of ECC, but also explains development of three, four and five year olds as justification for the developmental approach taken to sharing faith experiences with young children (learning about a loving, creator God).

### LESSON 2 - Parenting with God

This workshop will provide some guideposts to help parents navigate through the journey we call "parenting". Ideas will be offered to assist catechists in providing methods and activities that parents can share with their children in the home.

### LESSON 3 - Classroom Organization & Lesson Planning

Especially geared to those catechists who have had no formal teacher training, this session covers physical items needed to establish a comfortable setting for the children and demonstrates how to organize a successful classroom experience.

### LESSON 4 - Storytelling Brings the Theme Alive

Realizing that reading with children is very important in the early years, participants are taught how to choose appropriate books for various ages; how to insert a "God-message" in secular books; how to tell stories, use puppets, create flannel board stories; and how to have a class participate in acting out stories.

### LESSON 5 - Music & Movement Enlivens the Classroom

A group participation session requiring participants not only to sing out with children, and use rhythm instruments, but also to create their own songs, especially by piggy-backing words onto familiar melodies. Young children's attention span being very short necessitates frequent change in the pace of a class. Activity ideas are shared for getting the wiggles out through dance, games, exercises, and following directions.

### LESSON 6 - Table Celebrations Build A Community of Love / Non-Eucharistic Celebration

Celebrations held throughout the year develop in children an ability to celebrate life. Religious dimension is added to major holidays when we come together with our faith community and thank God for Life. Having children participate in organizing the celebration is essential and prepares them for the concept of Eucharistic celebration. As children complete the three year Early Childhood Catechesis program, they introduced to an age appropriate celebration which parallels the Eucharistic Celebration. They gradually come to an appreciation of the traditions and rituals of attending Mass. Workshop participants work together to produce a non-Eucharistic Celebration.

### LESSON 7 - Affirmative Discipline & Behavior Management Techniques

Since the children are only with us a short period of time each week, we want that hour to be filled with love, enjoyment, and exploration. Many catechists are not professional teachers; strategies are shared for control of classroom activities and special situations, including symptoms and signs to be aware of and various stress factors that affect a child's behavior.

### LESSON 8 - Exploring Talking and Listening Skills

Giving children time to share thoughts and ideas is important in establishing strong self-esteem. Sometimes it is hard to get children talking; sometimes it is hard to get them to stop talking. How to encourage and control discussions while being a reflective listener are discussed.

### LESSON 9 - Examining God's Gift of Feelings and Emotions

Emotions are not right or wrong, they just are. In order to learn to handle emotions, children must learn to recognize and name what they are feeling. Class lessons encompass all the feelings God has given us.

### LESSON 10 - Themes Involving the Senses

Extra emphasis is given on organizing class lessons around appreciation of our God-given senses, with an overview of stories, songs, creative art, and prayer experiences using the five senses, with variations for 3's, 4's, and 5's.

### LESSON 11 - Themes of Family, Friends, and Community

Extra emphasis is given on organizing class lessons around appreciation of God's gift of family, friends, community helpers, and our parish as a loving community, with an overview of stories, songs, creative art, and prayer experiences using these themes, with variations for 3's, 4's, and 5's.

### LESSON 12 - Themes Involving the Variety of Animals

Extra emphasis on organizing class lessons around appreciation of the multitude of animals in God's world, with an overview of stories, songs, creative art and prayer experiences using pets farm, wild, fish, birds, insects, etc.

### LESSON 13 - Themes Involving Elements -Air, Light, Water, and Earth

This workshop will focus on organizing class lessons around appreciation of our God' given world, with an overview of stories, songs, creative art, and prayer experiences using Earth's elements, with variations for 3's, 4's, and 5's.

### LESSON 14 - Environmental Awareness Starts Early

Caring for the world God created is important for survival of the planet. Children should be aware of ways they can help in that care. Values set early will last a lifetime.

### LESSON 15 - Themes Involving Plants, Seasons, Nature's Cycle

Emphasis with an appreciation of our Earth, God's world, with an overview of stories, songs, creative art, and prayer experiences using a variety of plants, fruits, vegetables, trees, flowers, and examination of how some plants change with the seasons.

### LESSON 16 - Explaining Death to Young Children

Because young children lack the cognitive development of abstract thinking, death must be treated in its concrete reality. Life cycles are explored as age-appropriate material. Adult faith beliefs in heaven, angels, afterlife are ADULT concepts..

### LESSON 17 - Celebrating Easter as the New Life of Spring

Concepts of Christ's passion, death and resurrection are beyond the scope of understanding for young children. Through examination of Spring bringing budding to trees, bulbs being transformed into flowers, eggs hatching into birds, and caterpillars becoming butterflies, a foundation is laid for future understanding of the importance of Christ's rising from the dead. Age appropriate classroom activities and celebrations are explored.

# You Are Invited...

The Annual Event For Early  
Childhood Educators!

**Early Childhood 2017  
Director's Workshop/Brunch  
Saturday, June 10, 2017**

Co-Sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor  
Office of Religious Education, Archdiocese of Los Angeles



Guest speaker:  
*Dr. Joseph White*

*Connecting the dots...  
for successful Early Childhood Ministry*

**Place: St. Monica Church**

**725 California Avenue**

**Santa Monica, CA 90403**

**(Seventh Street & California Avenue)**

**Meeting location: *The Grand Pavillion Room***

**Church Contact: Suzette Sornborger**  
suzette@stmonica.net 310.566.1541

**Time: 9:30 am - Registration/Check-in**

**10:00 am - 2:00 pm – Workshop Session**

**Fee: \$35.00**

***Includes: registration, notebook,  
handouts, craft item and brunch.***

## Our Special guest Speaker:

*Dr. Joseph White is a clinical child psychologist and National Catechetical Consultant for Our Sunday Visitor Publishing and Curriculum. He previously served as Director of Family Counseling and Family Life for the Diocese of Austin. Dr. White has taught courses in catechetics and pastoral guidance at the University of Dallas and at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. He is an author, a frequent keynote speaker and popular workshop presenter at national and diocesan conferences. He has appeared on several national Catholic radio shows and maintains a blog on catechesis.*

## Information:

**Jan C. Pedroza, (213) 637-7352**  
jcpedroza@la-archdiocese.org

**Diana Salinas, (213) 637-7303**  
dmsalinas@la-archdiocese.org



Office of Religious Education  
Los Angeles Archdiocese  
Website: <http://www.archla.org/ore>



REGISTRATION FORM  
2017 EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR'S WORKSHOP  
Registration fee: \$35.00

Full Name:	
Address:	
City/State/Zip Code:	
Home No.:	Work No.:
Your e-mail:	Cell phone:
City:	Parish and Region:
Please check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> DRE <input type="checkbox"/> Catechist <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Other	

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND  
MAIL TO: JAN PEDROZA, ORE, 3424 WILSHIRE BLVD., FL #4, LOS ANGELES CA 90010**

# Finding God Encontrando a Dios

**NEW!** Kindergarten

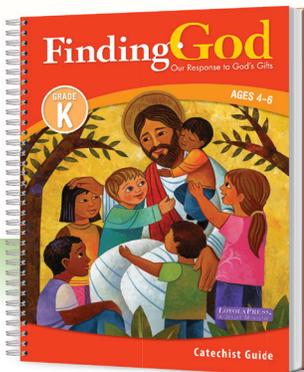
4-6 AÑOS | AGES 4-6

Our Response to God's Gifts • Nuestra respuesta a los dones de Dios

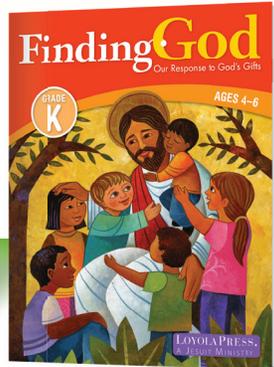
Visit us  
at booth  
#437

## Forming Disciples of Jesus

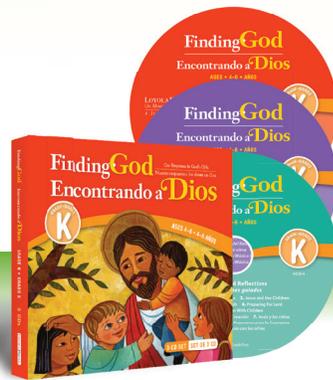
Jesus famously told his disciples not to hinder future disciples—the “little children”—from coming to him. Loyola Press has always taken this charge seriously. It was with little children in mind that **Finding God Kindergarten** was created. This compelling program honors the spirituality of little children and their ability to learn complex concepts when presented in ways that are friendly and proven to work with four- to six-year-olds. With active-learning opportunities on every page of the program, children are always engaged and fully immersed in the rich content of their faith.



Catechist Guide



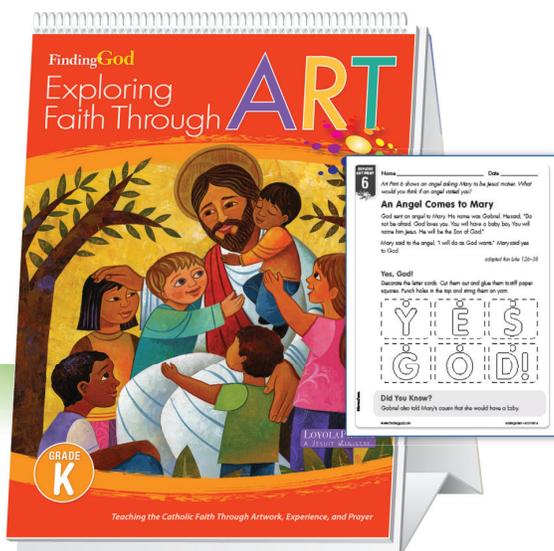
Children's Book



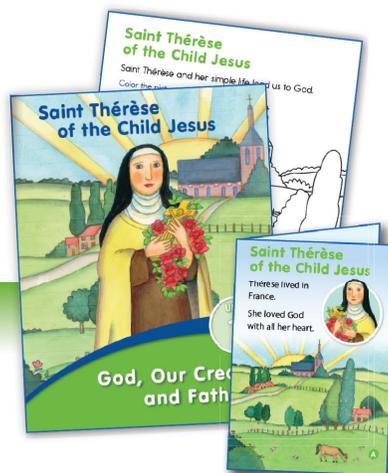
CDs



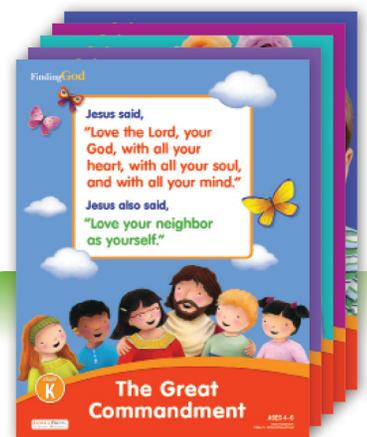
Jesus the Teacher  
A Plush Figure



Exploring Faith Through Art Easels  
with BLMs



Unit Opener and Tear-Out Booklets  
with Coloring Page



Poster Set

# Key Principles of Early Childhood Education

With its reliable, verified content, *Finding God Kindergarten* goes a step further than other programs, blending principles of kindergarten and early childhood education with catechetical materials, instruction, and approaches to provide simply the very best curriculum available today.

Key Principles of Early Childhood Education	How Principles Are Addressed in <i>Finding God Ages 4–6</i>
Early experiences have profound effects on learning.	Unlike most “me” centered programs for young children, we’ve built a <b>Christ-centered program</b> . Every page and activity in the program leads to discussion and activity related to God and the Catholic faith. In addition, by helping children regularly encounter God through prayer (four times in every session), seeds of faith are sown for a lifetime.
Young children learn in a variety of ways.	This program teaches to children’s strengths, providing instruction for a variety of learning styles: songs, rhymes, chants, finger plays, drawing, dancing, crafting, creating artworks, role-play, games, quiet-time prayer, and reflection.
Through careful guidance and practice, young children can develop self-regulatory capacities that are necessary for “quiet” or sustained learning experiences.	This program understands that in order to hear the Word of God, pray, and take abstract faith concepts to heart, young children need to learn self-control, listening skills, and calming techniques. Therefore, when appropriate, instruction is geared toward developing self-regulatory skills in children, such as through the use of Jesus the Teacher, a Plush Figure.
Children learn at varying rates.	Lessons are presented for children who are at early, intermediate, and advanced stages of development. Depending on the makeup of the group, this program is appropriate for children at the kindergarten level, transitional kindergarten/late Pre-K classes, or a combination.
“Play” and activity promote language, cognitive development, and social and emotional development.	Young children learn through getting up and moving. <i>Finding God Ages 4 to 6</i> takes this into account. With this program, children get up and move, and therefore LOVE to learn!
Learning advances when children are challenged.	<i>Finding God Ages 4 to 6</i> isn’t watered down—it presents challenging concepts in a very simple and clear way.
Children’s experiences shape their motivation.	Scripture and Tradition are presented through inviting text, engaging activities, and bright, beautiful art that motivate children to learn more and pique their desire to grow closer to God.
Young children develop more freely when they have secure relationships with classmates and adults.	The warm, inviting tone of the program will resonate with children from week to week. The activities in the program are designed to create a caring community—helping children know that their parish family is one on which they can rely now and throughout their whole lives.

# *New from* **Andrew Chinn & Friends!**



- |                                |                                   |                                |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. We Are God's Hands          | 7. You Are My God                 | 14. Deep Peace                 |
| 2. Welcome To All              | 8. Proclaim: Prelude              | 15. Precious Child             |
| 3. God Made Them All           | 9. Proclaim                       | 16. I Love And God Loves Me    |
| 4. Together We Pray            | 10. To Us Christ Is all           | 17. Listen To The Spirit       |
| 5. We Follow In Your Footsteps | 11. Little Things With Great Love | 18. An Australian Blessing     |
| 6. Live Justly                 | 12. The Truth Will Set Us Free    | 19. This Is Your Birthday Song |
|                                | 13. I Am The Bread Of Life        |                                |



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