

## 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 10
  - 4 year olds - maximum of 12
  - 5 year olds - maximum of 15
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 thoughtfully 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, some scriptural readings are not appropriate for this age group.
10. Strong, positive images of God are the focus.
11. Age Appropriate 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.

*"There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in"*

*Deepak Chopra*

## 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**



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## Early Childhood Specialization Series

Our specialization series is a 16 hour course which assists catechists, parents and care givers in learning how to catechize young children ages 3, 4 & 5 years old. Components of the Specialization Series include:

- Philosophy/EC Program Setting
- Behavior Management/Mindfulness
- Exploring God's Gift of Feelings/Emotions
- Appreciation: Family, Friends & Community
- Awareness of Our Senses
- Music and Movement Ideas
- Storytelling / "God-Message"
- Understanding Grief & Young Child
- Children Love Animals!
- Seasons and our Environment
- Seeds, Easter and New Life
- Table Celebrations/Paraliturgies
- Graduation!

## Pre-K Retreats/Workshops

The Early Childhood Coordinator and members of the Early Childhood Advisory Board are available to facilitate specific workshops for your parish needs as well as Pre-K Retreats for your parish or school in any of the areas listed below:

### WORKSHOPS OFFERED:

- \*Stages of Faith Development
- \*Positive Discipline Techniques
- \*Creative Art / Craft Experiences
- \*Young Children's Spirituality/Prayer
- \*Finding the "God Message" in Secular Stories
- \*Recognizing & Maximizing Teachable Moments
- \*Multiple Intelligence in Young Children
- \*Teamwork: Parents & Volunteers
- \*Holiday Lesson Ideas and Crafts
- \*Other Topics on Request

### PRE-K RETREAT THEMES:

- \*Friendship
- \*Our Family
- \*Spontaneous Prayer
- \*Music & Movement Fun
- \*Inanimate Themes
- \*Age Appropriate Themes of:
  - ~Lent/Easter
  - ~Halloween
  - ~Advent / Christmas
  - ~Thanksgiving / Fall
- \*Service
- \*Senses
- \*Animals



## Director's Workshop

This is offered annually within the Archdiocese. It is for DRE's/PCL's and Parish/School Preschool Directors. It is a "networking" style gathering that focuses on current trends in early childhood and allows for more in-depth participation and training of various early childhood themes.

## Information & Scheduling

We'd love to hear from you!!!  
To start an Early Childhood Faith Formation Program at your parish, or schedule a specialization series or Director's Workshop, or have your name added to our mailing list, email or call the Early Childhood Coordinator:

[www.archla.org/org/ore/ec](http://www.archla.org/org/ore/ec)

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Archdiocese

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