

What are Bahá'í classes for children and junior youth?

Bahá'í classes are open to all children and junior youth. These classes foster the love of God, the love of humanity, and the spirit of service to all people, as described in the following quotations:

The Purpose of the one true God, exalted be His glory, in revealing Himself unto men is to lay bare those gems that lie hidden within the mine of their true and inmost selves. That the divers communions of the earth, and the manifold systems of religious belief, should never be allowed to foster the feelings of animosity among men, is, in this Day, of the essence of the Faith of God and His Religion.

—Bahá'u'lláh

Children are even as a branch that is fresh and green; they will grow up in whatever way ye train them. Take the utmost care to give them high ideals and goals, so that once they come of age, they will cast their beams like brilliant candles on the world, and will not be defiled by lusts and passions in the way of animals, heedless and unaware, but instead will set their hearts on achieving everlasting honor and acquiring all the excellences of humankind.

— 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Classes for children and junior youth may occur in private homes or in larger school settings. Classes are sponsored by Local Spiritual Assemblies (local Bahá'í governing bodies) in order to assure a proper, safe, and well-planned program. Parent programs are also available in many localities. Ask about local details.

Can my children participate?

Bahá'í classes are open to all. Experience shows that parents from many faith backgrounds are happy for their children to participate. In addition, children or junior youth often invite their friends and neighbors to join these classes.



What do children really learn?

Bahá'í classes provide an organized, systematic process to “lay bare the gems” within each person. A dynamic, interactive learning process helps them to:

- develop spiritual qualities and praiseworthy virtues through studying and learning to draw on the ancient source of inspiration taught by all religions;
- enrich their sense of spiritual nobility and capacity to achieve high aims;
- gain the spiritual attitudes necessary to live an upright, healthy, and love-filled life; free from prejudice and powerfully contributing to the well-being of themselves and others.

Spiritual principles of nobility of character, oneness, peace, race unity, and gender equality are explored through the study of the teachings and history of the Bahá'í Faith and its impact in the world.

Who are the teachers?

Individuals often volunteer to teach the classes, sometimes parents themselves. Local Spiritual Assemblies assure that the individuals responsible for the classes are capable, trustworthy, and responsible for the safety and well-being of the children and junior youth in these classes.



Is it like catechism?

The core of the curriculum is inspired by the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith, which include respect for all people and all religions. Dynamic, interactive activities assist children to develop their inborn spiritual capacities and apply these capacities in daily deeds of constructive spiritual living.

Do you study only the Bahá'í Faith?

The central principles of the Bahá'í Faith are the oneness of God, the oneness of humanity, and the oneness of religion. Children must learn about all peoples, cultures, and religions to appreciate and exemplify the principle of oneness.

Do you have any successful examples in the U.S. or in my area?

You can read stories of successful children's classes online at www.core-curriculum.org.

*S*train every nerve to
acquire both inner
and outer perfections, for the
fruit of the human tree hath
ever been and will ever be
perfections both within and
without. It is not desirable
that a man be left without
knowledge or skills, for he is
then but a barren tree. Then,
so much as capacity and
capability allow, ye needs
must deck the tree of being
with fruits such as
knowledge, wisdom,
spiritual perception and
eloquent speech.

—Bahá'u'lláh



**How can I know more about it,
and whom should I contact?**

Bahá'í Classes



Open TO ALL