APPENDIX

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PLANNING LESSONS

- 1. **Reflect** deeply on the capacities, capabilities and interests of your students.
- 2. **Pray** for divine assistance.
- 3. **Create** your own lessons for these young souls using the Lesson Planning Template provided on the following pages.
- 4. Assess your teaching strategy:
 - What instructional methods will you use?
 - What learning tools will students use?
 - How will you get the attention and capture the interest of the learners in the topic you are going to teach?

You may wish to begin by relying on the detailed sample activities that are provided on the preceding pages.

As you become more experienced, you will want to adapt the activities to the learners in your class and to develop your own activities, based on the Suggested Learning Activities.

To create your own learning lesson plans, first carefully study the Learning Objectives and Suggested Learning Activities for the lesson topic.

Then use the Instructional Methods and Learning Tools described on pages 81-83 to design lessons tailored to the specific needs of your learners or to take advantage of particular circumstances in your community.

CORE CURRICULUM TEACHER TRAINING

This lesson planning guide has been created to assist you to plan and conduct Bahá'í children's classes. You will also find that Core Curriculum Teacher Training will assist you to better implement these materials. To participate in a Core Curriculum teacher training in your area, contact the National Teacher Training Center by phone at (810) 653-5033 or by email at NTTC@usbnc.org.

LESSON PLANNING TEMPLATE

STRAND:	Тнеме:
Goal	Topic
Ages of learners	# Learners
Key Characteristics and Special Diversities	of Learners:
Time needed to prepare to teach this lesson: Time needed to actually teach this lesson:	1:
Objectives for this lesson: (Use relevant of At the end of this lesson the learners will be all	objectives from the Lesson Planning Guide) ble to:
Knowledge: (Become Informed)	
Wisdom: (Understand)	
Spiritual Perception: (Reflect and Apply	y)
Eloquent Speech: (Act/Teach/Serve)	
Instructional Methods and Learning To diverse strategies)	pols: (Use the checklist on pages 81-83 of the Appendix to assure
Materials/Resources needed to teach this	is lesson:

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Pro	ocedure for this lesson:									
	Opening prayers and music:									
	Welcome, review previous lesson and action assignments:									
	Motivating the lesson: (How	will you engage the interest/curiosit	ity/attention of the students?)	g model does each activity address every part of the						
			uriosity/attention of the students?) ities: (Which part of the learning model does each activity nt Speech? Not every activity will address every part of the Time needed							
	Activities	Materials needed	Time needed							
	Closure: (How will you bring the	activities in the lesson to an end?)								
	Action assignments to be con	npleted before the next class:								
	Closing prayers and music:									

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS CHECKLIST

Strand:				Study										
Goal:			eaching	nd Private S	1						ture	ty		S;
Topic:	Writings	ıltation	Use of Questions and Peer Teaching	Independent Investigation and Private Study	Memorization and Recitation	effection	sə			mance	Science and the World of Nature	Play and Manipulative Activity	rips	Teaching and Service Projects
Lesson:	Direct Study of the Writings	Groups and Consultation	uestions a	ident Inves	zation and	Meditation and Reflection	Parables and Stories		l Crafts	Drama and Performance	and the W	1 Manipula	Travel and Field Trips	g and Serv
	Direct S	Groups	Use of (Indepen	Memori	Meditat	Parables	Music	Arts and Crafts	Drama a	Science	Play and	Travel a	Teachin
Activity:														
			_	_	_	_	_	_	_		_		_	

Briefly describe your activity in the left hand column. Then check off which instructional methods or learning tools you are using.

Look for gaps and, if necessary, revise your lesson plan to better meet the capacities and interests of your class.

Core Curriculum Instructional Methods & Learning Tools

taken from Foundations for a Spiritual Education, pp. 152-168

Establish a Loving Environment

Be thou a teacher of love in a school of unity.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, Bahá'í Education, p. 24

Direct Use of the Bahá'í Sacred Writings

Train these children with divine exhortations.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 53

Education Directed Toward the Recognition of God

We have decreed, O people, that the highest and last end of all learning be the recognition of Him Who is the Object of all knowledge....

Bahá'u'lláh, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 129

Involve Service to Humanity

The honor and distinction of the individual consist in this, that he among all the world's multitudes should become a source of social good.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, The Secret of Divine Civilization, pp. 2-3

To assist Me is to teach My Cause.

Bahá'u'lláh, Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 196

Engage the Mind and Heart

The principles of the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh should be carefully studied, one by one, until they are realized and understood by mind and heart — so will you become strong followers of the light....

'Abdu'l-Bahá, Paris Talks, p. 22

Private Study of the Writings

...Stimulate the students to proceed in their studies privately once they return home....

on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, Centers of Bahá'í Learning, p. 8

Establish Bonds of Unity and Friendship

Let them seek but love and faithfulness....

'Abdu'l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 257

Use of Consultation

Take ye counsel together in all matters, inasmuch as consultation is the lamp of guidance which leadeth the way, and is the bestower of understanding.

Bahá'u'lláh, in Consultation: A Compilation, p. 3, no. 1

Use of Questioning and Peer Teaching

Oral questions must be asked and answers must be given orally. They must discuss with each other in this manner.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, The Bahá'í World, vol. IX, p. 543

Independent Investigation and Using the Power of Reasoning

Therefore, depend upon your own reason and judgment and adhere to the outcome of your own investigation...
'Abdu'l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 293

Use of Memorization and Reflection

It is...highly praiseworthy to memorize the Tablets, divine verses and sacred traditions.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, in Bahá'í Education, p. 30, no. 77

Teach...the words that have been sent down from God, that they may recite...

Bahá'u'lláh, in Bahá'í Education, p. 6, no. 23

Use of Meditation and Reflection

Meditation is the key for opening the doors of mysteries.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, Paris Talks, pp. 174-175

The source of craft, sciences and arts is the power of reflection.

Bahá'u'lláh, Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 72

Use of Parables and Stories

Divine things are too deep to be expressed by common words. The heavenly teachings are expressed in parables in order to be understood and preserved for ages to come.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, quoted in 'Abdu'l-Bahá in London, p. 80

...stories regarding the life of different Prophets together with Their sayings will also be useful to better understand the literature of the Cause...

on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, Bahá'í Education, p. 53, no. 130

Use of Music

Music is an important means to the education and development of humanity...

'Abdu'l-Bahá, Bahá'í Writings on Music, p. 8

Use of Drama

The drama is of the utmost importance. It has been a great educational power of the past; it will be so again.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, quoted in 'Abdu'l-Bahá in London, p. 93

Employ Creativity and the Arts

Art can better awaken such noble sentiments than cold rationalizing, especially among the masses of people.

Shoghi Effendi, quoted in "In Its Full Splendor," Bahá'í News, no. 73 (May 1973), p. 7

Engage in Science and in the Investigation of the World of Nature

Arts, crafts and sciences uplift the world of being, and are conducive to its exaltation.

Bahá'u'lláh, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 26

And whatever time I contemplate the mountains, I am led to discover the ensigns of Thy victory and the standards of Thine omnipotence.

Bahá'u'lláh, Prayers and Meditations, p. 272

Play and Use of Manipulatives

They should be taught, in play, some letter and words...as is done in certain countries where they fashion letters and words out of sweets...

'Abdu'l-Bahá, Bahá'í Education, p. 30, no. 78

Use of Travel

If a man should live his entire life in one city, he cannot gain a knowledge of the whole world. To become perfectly informed he must visit other cities, see the mountains and valleys, cross the rivers and traverse the plains...

'Abdu'l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 295

Use of Recreation

A wise schoolmaster should send his scholars out to play...so that their minds and bodies may be refreshed, and during the hour of the lesson they may learn it better.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, in "Bahá'í Methods of Education," Star of the West, vol. 9, no. 8, p. 91



Core Curriculum for Spiritual Education of Children and Junior Youth

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Purpose – The Core Curriculum Scope and Sequence, a table found on the following pages, is designed to assist teachers and communities in planning curriculum for Bahá'í classes. It creates an integrated sequential program across all published Core Curriculum strands. Following this tool throughout the nine years of instruction ensures that the full range of content is covered, and will:

- Assist Local Spiritual Assemblies and Education Committees in providing guidance for structuring a systematic spiritual education program
- Provide teachers with a tool for sequencing curricular units of study in Bahá'í education (A Teacher's Spiritual Education Planning document may be ordered from Louhelen Bahá'í School, 810-653-5033, or email Louhelen@usbnc.org)
- Keep parents informed through a feedback tool that shows what a child or junior youth has studied or will study (The Student's Spiritual Education Record may also function as a transcript. This tool can be ordered from Louhelen Bahá'í School, 810-653-5033, or email Louhelen@usbnc.org)
- Ensure consistency in quality and content of spiritual educational program throughout the Bahá'í community
- Ensure that children and youth maintain a consistent spiritual education program after moving from one community to another
- Enable new Bahá'í children and junior youth to be easily incorporated into a systematic Bahá'í educational program

This sequential approach presents a well-balanced division of all available topics of study. In a community where the majority of students are children, the following age range is suggested for each level: Level 1: six – eight year olds; Level 2: nine – eleven year olds; Level 3: twelve – fourteen year olds.

The levels may also apply to an individual's general knowledge and understanding of the Core Curriculum topics as well as to chronological age. For instance, level one is applicable to a new believer of any age. The objectives are therefore ageless and apply equally to adults and children. Lessons may be planned for mixed age groups by adapting the activities to the needs of the group.

Structure – The Core Curriculum organizes the content of spiritual education curriculum into strands, including The Central Figures of the Faith, The Principle of Oneness, and The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh. Each strand may have several curriculum booklets or Lesson Planning Guides.

The Scope and Sequence is reproduced on pages 188–89. Reading across the page from left to right, the contents of the curriculum are listed in rows. Going down the table, the content of each strand is displayed across levels. **Learning Goals** are listed in bold type; <u>Topics</u> are listed in regular type. Although it is possible to find the same goal of a given booklet mentioned in more than one level, a specific topic is only assigned to one level.

For example, under the booklet *The Báb*, the goal of "Historical Context" appears in both Level One and Level Two, but the topics of that goal covered in Level One are different from those covered in Level Two. Every topic from every strand booklet is placed in this table; thus a student who completes this course of study will have been introduced to every topic of the entire curriculum set.

This table allows a community to plan their whole curriculum at a glance, to see where they have been and where they are going. For each strand, classes should cover the topics sequentially from one level to the next.

Examples of Implementation – The following three examples illustrate several ways that communities organize their classes.

Example 1: Community A, a small but growing community begins their classes with 14 children, organizes classes by age, and plans Level One class content for ages 6–8; Level Two for ages 9–11; and Level Three for ages 12–14. Two teachers are assigned to each age group. They determine how to divide the topics in their Level over a three-year span, ensuring that by the end of three years all of the topics in their Level will be addressed.

Example 2: Community B, a larger community with 57 children at the beginning of the year, also organizes classes by age, and uses class content Level One for ages 6–8; Level Two for ages 9–11; and Level Three for ages 12–14. However, they have different classes for each age. A school committee has divided the topics of each level into 3 years of study. For instance, they noted that there are 27 topics in Level One, so 9 topics have been assigned to the 6-year-old class; 9 topics to the 7-year-old class; and 9 topics to the 8-year-old class.

Example 3: Community C, a Bahá'í community totaling 23 members, plans 3 multi-age classes. Each class studies the same strand, but one class covers Level One topics, another class covers Level Two topics and a third class covers Level Three topics. Thus the entire community may study the Báb in the spring of the year; Bahá'u'lláh in the summer; 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the fall; and Oneness of Humanity during the winter. Since each class will cover only a few topics of their Level in each strand, the cycle will repeat with new topics for the Báb in the spring of the following year; new topics for Bahá'u'lláh in the summer; new topics for 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the fall; and a study of The Covenant during winter.

Embracing a Rapid Cycle of Growth – As more and more individuals and families become attracted to the regenerating Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, Bahá'í schools of all sizes must be ready to welcome these individuals with open arms. The example communities above illustrate different methods for integrating new members into existing Bahá'í classes.

In both examples 1 and 2, which divide classes by age, various solutions can be employed to ensure that students newly placed in classes can still learn topics their classmates have previously explored in previous classes. For example, a 10-year-old child of a new Bahá'í family will need to learn content elements of Level One, although the child enters a Level Two class. It is important, for instance, that every Bahá'í child study the Level One topic, "Prayers and Meditations of Bahá'u'lláh." Community A has appointed a youth mentor to work weekly with this new Bahá'í outside of class. Community B has a formal home-study program and an adult home-study teacher to serve entering children. In example 3, the 10-year-old child of a new Bahá'í family is easily integrated into the multi-age Level One class along with other family members.

Produced by the Education Task Force of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, 2003

	Core	Curriculum f	or Spiritual	Education of	f Children and J	unior Youth		
		STRAND: PRINCIP	LE OF ONENES	SS	STRAND: THE CENTRAL			
	ONENESS OF RELIGION	ONENESS OF HUMANITY	RACE UNITY	EQUALITY OF Women and Men	THE BÁB	Bahá'u'lláh		
Level 1	Understanding of the Oneness of God: The Meaning of Divine Unity Understanding of the Major Religions of the Past: The Nature and Purpose of Religion	The Prime and Pivotal Teaching: The Prime and Pivotal Principle The Essential Oneness of Humanity: No Distinction or Separation All Are Born With Potential	Understanding the Principle of Unity in Diversity: Beauty and Purpose of Diversity in the Realm of Creation The Elimination of Racial Prejudice: Following the Example of 'Abdu'l-Bahá	Equality and How It Differs from Being the Same: © Equal in Value, not Appearance Equality In Family and Community: © Roles of Fathers, Mothers, Wives and Husbands Examples of Heroes and Heroines: © The Holy Family	Historical Context: Religious Awakening in Anticipation Mulla Husayn's Search The Station of the Báb: The Titles of the Báb The Life of the Báb: The Early Life of the Báb The Declaration of the Báb The Writings of the Báb: The Prayers of the Báb	Love for Bahá'u'lláh: O Prayers and Meditations O Loving Acts O Children of His Household The Station of Bahá'u'lláh: O as Stated By 'Abdu'l-Bahá His Life & Ministry: O The Childhood of Bahá'u'lláh O Youth and Early Manhood The Principles of Bahá'u'lláh: O Oneness of God and of Humanity		
L e v e 1 2	Understanding of the Oneness of God: O To Be a True Seeker Understanding of the Major Religions of the Past: O The Mission of the Prophets O The History, Laws, and Teachings of Major Religions The Greatest Means for Unity: O The Essential Foundation of All Religions	The Prime and Pivotal Teaching: For the Peoples of the World The Diversity of Humanity: The Importance of Appreciating Diversity The Importance of the Principle of the Elimination of All Prejudices: A Barrier to Oneness and World Peace	The Unity and Equality of the Races: Created from the Same Dust A Composite of Harmony and Beauty	Equality and How It Differs from Being the Same: © Equality in Nature The Principle of Equality as it is Reflected in Bahá'í Teachings © The History of Equality and Inequality Equality In Family and Community: © Collaborative Family Life Examples of Heroes and Heroines: © Expressing Equality	Historical Context: The World of the 19th Century Iran in the 19th Century The Station of the Báb: The Herald of Bahá'u'lláh The Life of the Báb: The Letters of the Living The Ministry of the Báb After His Declaration Conference at Badasht The Writings of the Báb: The Development of the Bahá'í Calendar	Love for Bahá'u'lláh: O The Suffering and Sacrifices O Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá O The Holy Family The Station of Bahá'u'lláh: O as Stated by the Báb O as Stated by His Own Pen His Life & Ministry: O Bahá'u'lláh in the Síyáh-Chál O Banishment to Iraq O Declaration in the Garden of Ridván Proofs & Evidences of His Station O Progressive Revelation The Principles of Bahá'u'lláh: O The Social Principles Writings of Bahá'u'lláh: O The Significance of the Writings		
	, and the second							
L e v e 1 3	Understanding of the Oneness of God: OUnity of Science and Religion O Progressive Revelation—The Prophetic Cycle The Greatest Means for Unity: O Religious Prejudice as Cause of War and Hatred O Religion Must Be Cause of Love and Unity	The Diversity of Humanity: The Principle of Unity in Diversity The Importance of the Principle of the Elimination of All Prejudices: All Must Strive to Overcome their Prejudices True Unity as the Outcome of the Elimination of All Prejudices	The Elimination of Racial Prejudice: The Most Vital and Challenging Issue The Spiritual Qualities and Responsibilities Needed The Promised Outcomes	The Principle of Equality as it is Reflected in Bahá'í Teachings The Role of the Institutions Equality In Family and Community: Development of Human Economy World Peace	The Station of the Báb: The Islamic Prophecies The Life of the Báb: The Martyrdom of the Báb Upheavals Associated with the Ministry of the Báb The Shrine of the Báb The Writings of the Báb: The Major Writings	The Station of Bahá'u'lláh: O as Stated in the Holy Books of Previous Religions O as Stated by Shoghi Effendi His Life & Ministry: O Exiles to Constantinople and Adrianople O Exile to the Holy Land Proofs and Evidences of His Station O Proofs and Evidences Found in Divine Religions of the Past The Principles of Bahá'u'lláh: O The Personal Principles Laws of Bahá'u'lláh: O The Need for Laws O The Kitáb-i-Aqdas Writings of Bahá'u'lláh: O Mysteries and Hidden Meanings O Major Texts		

- Scope and Sequence - <u>Learning Goals</u> are in bold <u>Topics</u> in regular type								
FIGURES	STRAND: WORLD ORDER OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH							
'Abdu'l-Bahá	THE COVENANT	THE GUARDIANSHIP	Huqúqu'lláh / Bahá'í Funds	Institutions of the Bahá'í Faith	A Life of Service			
The Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá: The Childhood of 'Abdu'l-Bahá 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Life of Service The Mother Temple of the West The Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá: Tablets and Talks Addressed to Children	A Divine Covenant: The Definition of a Divine Covenant The Greater Covenant: How the Manifestations have been Received by Mankind	The Life of the Guardian, Shoghi Effendi Lineage and Early Life, Childhood, Early Youth, Schooling Guardian's Contributions Development of the World Center	The Bahá'í Fund: The Bahá'í Fund	The Structure and Function of the Administrative Order: The Nineteen Day Feast	The Purpose of Living a Life of Service The Purpose of Life To Care for One's Body The Relationship between physical cleanliness and spirituality Develop One's Intellectual Faculties Excellence and Education Develop Spiritual Capacity Spiritual Foundations Develop One's Social Life Daily Deeds of Service	Level 1		
The Station of 'Abdu'l-Bahá: O 'Abdu'l-Bahá as Exemplar O 'Abdu'l-Bahá as Interpreter The Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá: O The Youth of 'Abdu'l-Bahá O The Sacrifices of 'Abdu'l-Bahá The Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá: O The Major Topics and Titles O Memorials of the Faithful Journeys and Talks in the West: O Significance to the Western Believers O Important Principles Emphasized	The Greater Covenant: The Covenant of the Báb The Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh The Lesser Covenant: First of Its Kind in Religious History	The Life of the Guardian, Shoghi Effendi Character of the Guardian and His Excellence in All Things Guardian's Contributions Translation and Interpretation of the Writings, Correspondence with the Bahá'ís of the World, and His Writings The Appointment of Shoghi Effendi as Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith	The History of Huqúqu'lláh: O Unique Nature Purpose of the Law of Huqúqu'lláh for Institutions: O Reciprocity, Mutual Assistance and Cooperation O Building the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh Purpose of the Law of Huqúqu'lláh for the Individual: O Personal Aspects of the Law O Outcomes for the Individual	Significance and Distinction of the Institutions: O The Administrative Order O Administrative Systems of the Past O The Covenant Development of the Administrative Order: O Heroic and Formative Ages O Institution of the Learned O The Bahá'í World Centre Structure and Function of the Administrative Order: O Structure and Form O The Learned and the Rulers O Local and National Institutions Citizenship: O Individual's Relationship to Institutions O Service to the Institutions	The Purpose of Living a Life of Service The Power of Action To Care for One's Body Chastity and Purity Develop One's Intellectual Faculties: The Needs of our Time Develop One's Spiritual Capacity: Spiritual Habits Develop One's Social Life: Serving the World and Humanity Teaching through Words and Deeds	L e v e 1 2		
Emphasized	<u> </u>	JUNIOR YO	UTH: COMING OF	AGE				
The Station of	The Lesser Covenant: Its Purpose to Preserve Unity The Will and Testament of Abdu'l-Bahá: The Will and Testament of Abdu'l-Bahá Testament of Abdu'l-Bahá Testament of Abdu'l-Bahá The Guardianship and the Universal House Of Justice The Individual and the Covenant: Complete Loyalty to Bahá'u'lláh Participation and Obedience Covenant- Breakers	The Life of the Guardian, Shoghi Effendi Family Relationships: Marriage, Greatest Holy Leaf, Covenant Breakers Passing of the Guardian Guardian's Contributions Expansion and Implementation of the Bahá'í Administrative Order, Design, Implementation The Institution of the Guardianship	The History of Huqúqu'lláh: The Development of the Institution of Huqúqu'lláh The Trusteeship of Huqúqu'lláh Purpose of the Law of Huqúqu'lláh for Institutions: The Disbursement of Huqúqu'lláh Application of the Law of Huqúqu'lláh: The Features of Huqúqu'lláh Calculating Huqúqu'lláh The Bahá'í Fund: Distinction Between the Bahá'í Fund and Huqúqu'lláh	Development of the Administrative Order: O 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Role as Architect Structure and Function of the Administrative Order: O The Universal House of Justice O Bahá'í Elections Consultation: O The Role of Consultation O Spiritual Prerequisites O Decision Making O The Steps Used in Consultation Citizenship: O America's Spiritual Destiny The Mission and Future of the Faith: O Purpose and Mission of Bahá'u'lláh O Unfolding Destiny	Develop One's Intellectual Faculties: O The Kitab-i-Aqdas O Heroes and Heroines Develop One's Spiritual Capacity: O Spiritual Practices Develop One's Social Life: O Community Service O Preparation for Marriage O Teaching our Peers	L e v e 1 3		

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