# BIBLICAL BASIS

For

Early Childhood Philosophy of Religious Education

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| **VALUE**  
Genesis 1:31 “And God saw everything he had made, and behold it was very good.” | People are the best things God made. | Each child is a gift from God and is to be respected and taught as an individual and now to be compared with others. |
| **TEACH**  
Deuteronomy 6:7 “Teach them to your children. Repeat them when you are at home and away, when you are resting and when you are working.” | A child learns through repetition in various activities. | A child learns to eat, walk, talk, get along with others, and cooperate as he/she has numerous opportunities and different ways to practice these skills. |
| **TRAIN**  
Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go.” | The key to this passage is “in the way he should go.” Each child is different. | Each child is to be provided with a variety of activities and materials from which to choose, learn, and develop his own God-given uniqueness. He/she is not to be put into an “assembly line” where he/she will “pass” to become like all the other children. |
| **ENVIRONMENT**  
Psalms 122:1 “I was glad when they said, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord.’” | People look forward to going to a house of worship. | A church should be a safe and happy place where children learn. |
| **MODEL**  
Luke 2:52 “And Jesus increased in wisdom, and stature and in favor with God and man.” | Jesus grew in all the human development areas. | As did Jesus, all child progresses through the stages of mental, physical, moral/spiritual, social, and emotional development in the same sequence. Therefore, each child needs developmentally appropriate activities and guidance during each stage. |
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| DEVELOPMENT                      | 1st Corinthians 13:11 “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became an adult, I put away childish things.”  
1st Corinthians 14:20 “Brethren, do not be children in understanding…but in understanding be mature.” | A child talks, understands, and thinks differently from an adult. He/she thinks concretely; an adult is also capable of thinking abstractly.  
A child needs hands on experiences to which he/she can relate with his/her five senses. As his brain develops in relationship to his experiences, at about age nine in most children, the abstract capabilities will have emerged to be more like an adult. |
| RELATION TO GOD: SAFE             | Matthew 18:1-4 “At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, ‘Verily ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’” | The question the disciples asked Jesus was: Who will be greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven? Jesus answered by choosing a child illustrate to the adults the characteristics of persons in the Kingdom of Heaven. This first is humility. Jesus admonition “to be converted” was addressed to the adults.  
Jesus chose a child as a symbol of the qualities of those who are citizens of the Kingdom:  
1. Humility. As a child grows up and is initiated into a competitive world with its fierce scramble for prizes and winning, the child’s instinctive humility is left behind.  
2. Dependence. A child is perfectly content to totally depend on those who live and care for them.  
3. Trust. Children instinctively trust parents and care-persons to take care of them. Jesus’ answer was not an admonition to convert or a plan on how to convert young children. It was an answer related to adults. |
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| RELATION TO GOD: SAFE (Continued) | Parents wanted a great man to touch, bless, and pray for their young children. The disciples scolded the parents. Jesus invited the children to physically come to him. He touched them, blessed them, and sent them on their way. | Jesus used a natural experience with young children to teach adults a spiritual lesson. He did not save them. He knew they were already safe—"for of such is the Kingdom of heaven." A child is safe until:  
1. He/she can personally relate to God in abstract thinking in order to understand the basics of the gospel: God loves us and sent His Son who died and was resurrected for our sin. Those who repent and trust Jesus as Savior and Lord shall be saved.  
2. He/she is led by the Holy Spirit to do so. A person is a sinner because they are a sinner by nature. Committing sin does not make one a sinner. One is either a lost sinner or a saved sinner. The child sinner is safe under the grace of God until he/she is old enough to understand the basic meaning of the gospel and come under the conviction and leadership of the Holy Spirit. |

Mark 10:13-16 “And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, ‘Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.’ And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."