



6 to 9 yo
framework

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Framework

6 to 9 Year Olds

The human being was created in the image and likeness of God. We are brought to this earth to enjoy God's immense love in His beautiful creation. It is because of this that we are capable of learning from life: we need to experience, explore, and use our whole bodies, minds, and souls, to develop skills, learn concepts, and live a virtuous life that will lead us to our Creator.

Children are God's special blessing to us and the world, brought with particular gifts and a unique mission. Not only that, but they will become the people who run tomorrow's world. The roles will revert and its them whom will end up taking care of us. It is important to understand that even though they need to learn to live in this world, it is in our hands to educate our kids and lead them to the ultimate goal: Heaven. With that being said, we want them to have a wonderful life here on Earth, while trying to be out-of-this-world at the same time.

To help them become well rounded people, we need to educate the whole being, in its many areas: spiritual, social, emotional, communicational, executional (motor), and expressional (play). These can only grow if we expose our children to varied experiences to encourage the development of particular skills.

Here is a small chart with the areas and most important skills I think are important for each stage of your early elementary kid. This is by no means an exhaustive tool, nor am I a doctor or expert curriculum developer, so if you are worried about your child, please consult with your health provider or ask for insight from their primary caregiver. In the same way, every person is unique and everyone develops at a different pace, so don't take this (-or any other) tool as the law and the only way things need to happen and be.

Finally, everything in this document is thought from what the kid does, and not what the adult needs to do. Since learning is in reference to the learner/student/child; and teaching is in reference to the teacher/guide/adult, in here you will find mostly child-centered information.

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	6 year olds	7 year olds	8 year olds	9 year olds
Spiritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attends church in a meaningful way. Bonds with family and the Holy Trinity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses prayer as a tool to figure out what they want, and ask for what they need. Takes a commitment: Sunday school, altar server, preparing for first communion, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asks questions about the world and surroundings, answered with faith. Reads Bible stories. Receives First Reconciliation and Communion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops awareness of own unique gifts. Uses gifts to contribute to the community.
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In between phase from family centered to peer centered. Has friends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops autonomy from family. Makes lots of friends. Wants to interact with adults other than parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interacts with adults through specific topic conversations. Begins to differentiate friends and best friends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a more established group of friends. Enjoys socializing with all ages, but specifically close-aged peers.
Emotional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizes feelings of happiness, sadness, anger, and hurt in others. Begins to think of the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empathy is in full, and they are able to avoid (or purposely do) things that could hurt others. Still self-centered so they always want to do what they want. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends become more important than parents, so they take their opinions more than those of the family. Feelings are easily hurt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins to find their place in the world. Becomes more independent. Develops stronger and more complex relationships.
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicates feelings, events, and ideas in complete and complex sentences. Understands jokes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses verb tenses correctly. Enjoys telling jokes. Can retell sequences of up to 3 events. Reads simple books. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retells complicated sequences of 4+ events. Is able to make phone calls (guided by an adult). Asks for information to adults on information booths or registers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoys reading independently. Talks to adults about different topics. Engages in conversations with peers and adults. Uses expressive language.
Motor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gains muscle strength through play and vigorous activity. Develops coordination while catching, kicking, and throwing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proficient at coordinating body parts. May show interest in more complex physical activities like dancing, gymnastics, or a particular sport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoys playing organized sports. Can play instruments of their interest. Can go through obstacle courses fast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writes with better handwriting, faster, and smaller. Easily fastens snaps, ties shoe laces, zips up zippers, etc.
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoys riding bikes, jumping on a trampoline, playing hopscotch... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likes to jump rope, play with the elastic, run around, bike rides... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoys manual games like arts and crafts, board games, jigsaw puzzles... Wants to play simple games with others such as hide and seek, tag, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wants to do all sorts of things involving fine motor skills: braiding, tying knots, drawing, coloring, cutting, folding papers, etc.

How can you help your child?



Spiritual Area

1. Pray with your kids.
2. Take them to church every Sunday (-and every day if possible).
3. Establish prayer routines (and maybe even turns to be the prayer leader).
4. Encourage them to find their talents and put them to the service of others.
5. Read bible stories and provide a small reflection.



Social Area

1. Accept their inclination to be with friends more than with family.
2. Provide instances for them to share time with children of all ages.
3. When possible, talk with your kids and other adults about topics your children can have an opinion on or share ideas.



Emotional Area

1. Help children identify other people's emotions by naming them and giving a possible explanation on why they are feeling that way.
2. Encourage them to role play with different careers (doctor, dentist, architect, dancer, singer...)
3. Highlight their virtues, gifts, and good actions.
4. Provide examples or reflections on what different relationships look like: mom & dad, mom & kids, dad & kids, cousins, friends, strangers, priest, teachers, etc.

Communication Area

1. Talk to your children in complete, complex and even compound sentences to promote the acquisition of more vocabulary and correct grammar.
2. Tell jokes and listen to them, modeling the right way of doing it.
3. Ask about their day, requesting for at least 3 different events or ideas.
4. Encourage your kids to talk to the lady at the register, or the man serving the ice cream to promote independence in communication.
5. Provide them with level-appropriate books to read.

Motor Skills Area

1. Engage your kids in outdoor games, running, sports... to promote vigorous play and muscle development.
2. Provide instances to play music with real or improvised instruments.
3. Now is the time to begin with calligraphy if they are interested in it (print or cursive).

Play Development Area

1. Encourage outdoor play that involves jumping, riding bikes, ball games, etc.
2. Provide materials to explore arts and crafts such as cutting, pasting, decorating, braiding, knotting, coloring, painting, among others.

As parents and caregivers, we want the very best for our children. We may not be perfect, but we can strive for perfection by doing everything in our power to lead their little souls to Heaven and prepare them for when they are in charge of their journey and the one of their own families when they have them.

The key is to know the main objective, and organize everything else needed to achieve it, under it.

