

BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

7. EDUCATION

Greet the children and wait for them to sit quietly. Ask a couple of children to say prayers. What news have the children of practising Bahá'í virtues, recently? Let the children tell their stories, waiting patiently for each child to finish. Do not force children to take part who do not want to.

Today we are going to talk about education. What is education? Discuss other forms of education besides school work. Learning is most important and I will read for you what 'Abdu'l-Bahá said. (Read slowly so children get a general understanding without going into detail to begin with.) **“Educate these sons and daughters, according to teachings from God, develop along every line, show forth the excellent gifts and blessings of the Lord, and combine human perfections; that they may advance in all aspects of human endeavour, whether outward or inward, hidden or visible, material or spiritual, until they make of this mortal world a widespread mirror to reflect that other world which dieth not.”** SWAB p. 128

Discuss with the children what ideas they have grasped from the first reading. Explain some of the difficult words and read it through again.

Then 'Abdu'l-Bahá said of children **“Let them share in every new and rare and wondrous craft and art. Bring them up to work and strive, and accustom them to hardship. Teach them to dedicate their lives to matters of great import, and inspire them to undertake studies that will benefit mankind.”** SWAB p. 129

Read this section again and discuss with the children what each phrase means. Notice that all knowledge is important if it benefits mankind. It might not be easy to learn but we need to work hard. 'Abdu'l-Bahá says that we must 'work and strive'.

When people talk of education we usually think of the kind of education we get in school. This may be mental education only, or we may also receive physical education at school, such as playing games like football and netball, or athletics. But spiritual education is very, very important. 'Abdu'l-Bahá said, **“Training in morals and good conduct is far more important than book learning. A child that is cleanly, agreeable, of good character, well-behaved – even if he be ignorant – is preferable to a child that is rude, unwashed, ill-natured, and yet becoming deeply versed in all the sciences and arts. The reason for this is that the child who conducts himself well, even if he be ignorant, is of benefit to others while an ill-natured, ill-behaved child is corrupted and harmful to others, even if he be learned. If however the child be trained to be both learned and good, the result is light upon light.”** SWAB p.135-6

Discuss these ideas with the children.

BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

ACTIVITIES

GROUP A

Look at the picture. Do you see that the children are all learning different things? God wants us to learn many things. Some of us like doing some things and other children like something else. It doesn't matter. We just need to try hard and do our very best. Then we will be happy and God will be pleased.

GROUP B

Here is a quiz about people and their work. All these people have learned how to do things that benefit others. Can you find the answers? (Either he or she can be used)

1. She grows crops and keeps animals _____
2. He keeps people safe _____
3. She teaches children _____
4. She looks after sick people _____
5. You go to her when you are sick. _____
6. He helps to put out fires _____
7. He fixes your teeth _____
8. She sings songs _____
9. She cooks food _____
10. He makes music _____
11. He builds houses _____
12. He paints houses _____

(Farmer, policeman, teacher, nurse, doctor, fireman, dentist, singer, cook, musician, builder, painter.)

GROUP C

Choose any two jobs people do and write how these people can help others. You can draw a picture too if you like.

TO FINISH

Ask the children to make sure that they leave the room tidy. Those children who have written about how people do jobs that help others, can be asked to read, or tell about what they have written. Ask one or two children to say a closing prayer.

BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

EDUCATION. Group A. The children are learning. Can you see who is learning to pray, to be kind to animals, to tidy their clothes, to cook, clean their teeth?

