

Welcome to the Spiritist Education Department!

Here is some important information about the Spiritist Education for Babies and Parents-to-be and suggestions to observe during class activities.

✓ Understanding Spiritist Education

Babies, children, and youth are reincarnated Spirits in the stage of improvement, endowed with the skills and experiences developed throughout their multiple existences.

In the Spiritist Center, Spiritist Education groups provide a special moment of interaction, learning, reflection, sharing of experiences and building bonds of friendship and fraternity among participants. It aims to promote connections with oneself, with others and with God, providing opportunities for studying and experiencing Jesus' teachings through the lenses of Spiritism.

✓ Understanding the Spiritist Education for Babies and Parents-to-be

The objective of the Spiritist Education for babies and parents-to-be is to promote and encourage the moral and spiritual development of the child, based on the Gospel of Jesus and Spiritist teachings. It seeks to empower the parents with tools that will help achieve this goal. The activities are organized so that, in addition to providing Spiritist knowledge to the participants, they develop and strengthen the bonds of love between parents and baby. The baby is considered an active participant in learning, susceptible to the influences of people and environment.

✓ Role of the Parents in the Spiritist Education for Babies and Parents-to-be

The participation of parents in the activities of Spiritist Education for Babies and Parents-to-be is an important source of security and well-being, helping the integration of the baby with the educational environment. The parents are not simply companions in the activity, instead they are co-participants in the process of spiritist education of their child. The parents' active participation influences the child's self-image, stimulates the formulation of concepts and development of motor skills, strengthening their spiritual bond.

(Guidelines based on *Evangelizando Bebês*. FEEGO, 2011)

✓ Suggested Activity Breakdown (30 minutes)

- Initial prayer, welcome and greeting songs (10 minutes)
- Main lesson and related activities (10 minutes)
- Final prayer and goodbye song (5 minutes)

- Passes and magnetized water (5 minutes) (if the Spiritist Center offer passes, the magnetized water will then follow the activity)

✓ **Classroom Set-up Suggestions** (*Refer to bullets for virtual classes modification*):

1. Set up the room to ensure it is child safe, remove chairs and table, and cover the ground with a blanket or rug. You may add pillows or cushions for comfortable sitting, leaving enough space for the children to explore crawling or walking around.
 - Ask virtual participants to make sure their room is safe for the child to move around. It's okay for the children to play with their toys if they are not noisy.
2. It is recommended that the educator place the materials that will be used in class out of reach and discreetly covered until the activity starts.
3. Have parents sit comfortably on the floor with their child.
 - In order to create and reinforce a routine, it is a good idea to have classes in the same area of their home.
4. Incorporate the passes and magnetized water according to your spiritist center's structure.
 - Virtual participants may have water near them to drink after the final prayer.

✓ **Class Guidelines Suggestions** (*Refer to bullets for virtual classes modification*):

1. It is recommended that the spiritist center's media guidelines be shared with parents in writing.
2. Participants would benefit from dressing in comfortable clothes, as this age group requires a lot of movement from the accompanying adult.
3. Remind parents to silence their cell phones prior to the start of class and activities.
4. Remind parents to avoid parallel conversations during class, as it may interfere with the progress and harmony of the activities.
5. Give each participant a turn, by inviting them to share their ideas, to make sure everyone is heard.
 - In a virtual setting, everyone should avoid background noises by keeping themselves on mute when it's not their turn to talk.
6. Let the parents know that some of the songs will be sung every class in order to create a routine for the meetings. Other songs will be rotated every two weeks or so. Repetition can be dull for adults, but babies and young children respond well to it.
7. Let participants know they should not worry about their singing voices when singing the songs in class—simply sing along with love and joy. Children are the best imitators!
 - In a virtual setting, the computer should be kept on mute, so that the children will only hear the educator's voices. Parents should participate with their children by singing along.

8. There should be no expectation that the child will sit quietly or stay focused on the activity for a prolonged period of time. Encourage the participation of the children by engaging in the activity with them.
 - Virtual participants should not expect children to sit quietly looking at a computer screen.