

DEVELOPMENTAL DOMAIN 1

Spiritual Development

STANDARDS	BENCHMARKS / Example
God	
1.1 <i>Begins to develop an understanding and beliefs about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and angels</i>	1.1.1 Begins to understand the family of God: God the Father, Jesus His Son, and the Holy Spirit <i>Example:</i> » Child recalls that God's immediate family is made up of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit » Child relates through earthly family relationships
	1.1.2 Begins to experience God's unconditional love <i>Example:</i> » Child says, "Jesus loves me like my parents love me" » Child accepts comfort and guidance from individuals who provide discipline
	1.1.3 Begins to exercise faith and communicate with God through prayer <i>Example:</i> » Child closes eyes and folds hands during prayer » Child asks to pray at mealtime » Child has prayer request "for my mommy who's sick" » Child says, "We should pray," when a difficult situation arises
	1.1.4 Begins to express belief that God sends His angels to protect His children <i>Example:</i> » Child says, "I know my angel watches over me" » Child tells someone, "We don't need to worry, our angels are with us"
	1.1.5 Begins to show an interest in learning more about Jesus <i>Example:</i> » Child asks, "What was Jesus like when He was little?" » Child role-plays the story of Jesus in the dramatic play center » Child enjoys reading or looking at a storybook about Jesus repeatedly
The Bible	
1.2 <i>Begins to understand that God speaks to people through the Bible</i>	1.2.1 Begins to develop an interest in Bible stories and memory verses <i>Example:</i> » Child learns and recites memory verses » Child interacts with Bible story activities » Child carries around a small Bible
	1.2.2 Begins to recognize that the Bible is God speaking to us and is the source of truth <i>Example:</i> » Child responds, "The Bible says..." » Child says, "Jesus says..."
	1.2.3 Begins to understand that the Bible contains God's law that teaches us how to live <i>Example:</i> » Child expresses that something is right or wrong » Child says, "We need to love God and others like Jesus did"

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Creation 1.3 Begins to understand the events of creation, the nature of man, and his relationship to God	1.3.1 Begins to develop an appreciation of creation and an interest in studying nature <i>Example:</i> » Child looks at a flower, an animal, stars, etc., and says, "God made this" » Child shows enthusiasm while playing and/or observing in the outdoor environment that God created
	1.3.2 Begins to understand that man was made in God's image with the freedom to make choices <i>Example:</i> » Child says, "God made me like Him" » Child understands that choices can be made » Child helps care for the environment, recycle, feed birds, pick up trash, etc.
	1.3.3 Begins to build a relationship with God through prayer and praise <i>Example:</i> » Child initiates prayer to God who is their friend » Child participates in singing Bible songs to praise God
	1.3.4 Begins to accept God's gift of the Sabbath <i>Example:</i> » Child says, "The seventh day of creation is God's special day" » Child talks about going to church to worship on the Sabbath » Child asks to go to church on Sabbath, God's special day, to praise Him
	1.3.5 Begins to respond to nature by showing sympathy, compassion, and a caring spirit <i>Example:</i> » Child expresses emotion for the death of a pet or a plant » Child shows concern or compassion for a sick or sad classmate
Salvation 1.4 Begins to understand the plan of salvation	1.4.1 Begins to comprehend that good and bad things happen, there is good versus evil, there is a yes and a no <i>Example:</i> » Child points to a wilted flower and says, "The flower died" » Child identifies examples of good and/or bad choices
	1.4.2 Begins to understand Jesus' love through His death and resurrection <i>Example:</i> » Child sees a picture of Jesus on the cross, points and says: "Jesus died for me" » Child points to a picture of the second coming and says, "Jesus is alive and He's coming back for me"
	1.4.3 Begins to realize that Jesus wants to save everyone from evil or harmful things <i>Example:</i> » Child says, "Jesus wants everyone to go to Heaven" » Child says, "Jesus is stronger than Satan"
	1.4.4 Begins to express love for Jesus and exhibits Christ-like behavior <i>Example:</i> » Child says, "I love Jesus" » Child says, "I want to be like Jesus" » Child shows compassion for others like Jesus did
	1.4.5 Begins to understand and practice forgiveness <i>Example:</i> » Child asks for forgiveness » Child accepts apologies

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Worship & Church Life 1.5 <i>Begins to develop an understanding of the church family and service to others</i>	1.5.1 Begins to participate in worship to God through praying, singing, Bible story lessons, testimonials/sharing through conversations, witnessing, etc. <i>Example:</i> » Child participates in singing worship songs » Child is able to repeat/say a simple prayer » Child retells a Bible story
	1.5.2 Begins to understand that there are churches and places where people go to worship God <i>Example:</i> » Child shares about worship experiences at church » Child is able to identify pictures of places of worship
	1.5.3 Begins to show reverence during worship times <i>Example:</i> » Child sits quietly while listening to Bible stories » Child is reverent during prayer (still, quiet, etc.)
	1.5.4 Begins to recognize that the church family is made up of a diverse group of people <i>Example:</i> » Child understands that a church family is made up of people from different cultures, ages, countries, etc.
	1.5.5 Begins to understand baptism and the Lord's Supper <i>Example:</i> » Child listens to Bible stories about baptism and the Lord's Supper » Child role-plays the Lord's Supper
	1.5.6 Begins to be familiar with Bible stories and teachings from Adventist Heritage and Bible prophets <i>Example:</i> » Child can retell or role-play a Bible story » Child can identify the main character or main idea of a Bible story » Child can retell or role-play stories of Ellen G. White
	1.5.7 Begins to develop an understanding of their talents to be used for serving God and others <i>Example:</i> » Child makes cards for the elderly » Child participates in gathering food donations » Child participates in a variety of activities such as singing, sharing, or helping
	1.5.8 Begins to recognize that worship to God can take place anywhere, anytime <i>Example:</i> » Child participates in worship in various places » Child participates in chapel

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Christian Living 1.6 <i>Begins to recognize the joy in Christian living</i>	1.6.1 Begins to understand and demonstrate that obeying God brings true happiness <i>Example:</i> » Child begins to understand that lying can hurt others and self » Child begins to understand that stealing is wrong » Child begins to understand that it feels good to treat others with kindness
	1.6.2 Begins to demonstrate thankfulness to God through stewardship <i>Example:</i> » Child begins to understand the importance of caring for animals and the environment » Child role-plays giving offering or tithe
	1.6.3 Begins to show love and appreciation for family and others <i>Example:</i> » Child makes a thank you card for parents or friends » Child offers to help others with a task without being asked » Child says “thank you” to express appreciation
	1.6.4 Begins to understand the Biblical concepts of good health habits and respects body as the temple of God <i>Example:</i> » Child can identify foods that are healthy for their body » Child participates in activities such as drinking water, exercising, getting fresh air, and resting
	1.6.5 Begins to appreciate God’s Sabbath as a day of rest and healthy restoration <i>Example:</i> » Child shares about a Sabbath day experience with family » Child learns to get ready for the Sabbath
	1.6.6 Begins to show understanding of the Golden Rule and its application <i>Example:</i> » Child shares a toy without being asked » Child invites a new child to play together
	1.6.7 Begins to develop a personal relationship with Jesus <i>Example:</i> » Child goes to a quiet place and prays quietly to Jesus
Jesus’ Return 1.7 <i>Begins to anticipate the soon coming of Jesus</i>	1.7.1 Begins to demonstrate eagerness for Jesus’ return <i>Example:</i> » Child exhibits an enthusiastic attitude toward stories about Jesus’ second coming » Child asks, “When is Jesus coming?”
	1.7.2 Begins to look forward to living with Jesus forever <i>Example:</i> » Child asks, “What will Heaven be like?” » Child says, “When I get to Heaven I want to play with a lion” » Child role-plays talking with his favorite Bible character, e.g., “David, what was it like to stand before Goliath?”