

## **Transitioning Ideas from FF to RCIA adapted for children.**

- A. Do your homework. Get familiar with the RCIA process for adults.  
Find out from the RCIA handbook, your Parish RCIA Coordinator, the Diocese, etc. what is and is not required for the kids i.e. Rites outside of Mass, Option of doing the Rite of Sending and Election.  
Not having the kids receive Sacraments at the Easter Vigil at least until you are comfortable with the process.  
Add the minor rites gradually over the years.
- B. Be direct. Don't back yourself in a corner by promising sacraments at a certain date and time. Get used to saying "It takes as long as it takes". Get comfortable at explaining it to parents.
- C. Start with materials that you are already using in Faith Formation and do not panic because there is not some "program" out there ready to go.

Materials needed –

Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Mass.

Look at the materials you are currently using in FF and try to adapt it to the kids for at least part of their formation.

Check out Lectionary Based programs.

Call publishers ask if they have anything that would be appropriate for your particular needs.

If you have a Children's Liturgy of the Word program at your parish incorporate those materials into your RCIA – Kids program. The Children's Lectionary, Teacher Manuals and Workbooks.

Use the Missal to explain the parts of the Mass.

- D. Be prepared. When you meet with your pastor have your facts and suggestions ready to go. Do not go to him and say "What do you want me to do with these kids?" Instead go in prepared to outline who you have, what they need, and what the RCIA Handbook ( adapted for Children) says to do with and then let him make the final decision. If you only get to do one or two things the first year, let it be.
- E. Keep it Simple. Don't re-invent the wheel. Find out what has been done in your parish before or call other parish's to see what they are doing. Keep in touch with the Diocesan RCIA Team to continue the conversation going.
- F. Trust yourself. Don't ignore your instincts and don't be afraid to try things. If you're not sure they are appropriate, ask.
- G. Finally, don't be afraid to let people know that you are trying your best. Ask for help and suggestions. Keep reminding yourself and others that it is a process that takes time. Not only to go through but to implement.