

Online

Educating in Christ (EIC) | IN PROGRESS

Have you ever wondered how to *best* support children on their journey of life and faith, especially in these immensely challenging times? How can we help our young ones not only to learn about God's truth in their heads, but also come to *hunger* for Him in their hearts?

Children have an immense capacity for God, who has written a desire for Him in their hearts. Jesus invites us, as adults, to participate with the Holy Spirit in guiding little ones to the Father's Heart. This Educating in Christ (EIC) Track is a unique adaptation of the work of Dr. Maria Montessori, Dr. Sofia Cavalletti, and Gianna Gobbi, master teachers and master catechists. Designed by an educational expert, Dr. Gerard O'Shea, in collaboration with a team of catechetical experts assembled by Franciscan University's Catechetical Institute, the EIC approach offers the unparalleled value of *Montessori's understanding of the child* to two areas of need: parents in the home and teachers serving in regular Catholic schools. The EIC goal is to enable children in various educational circumstances to benefit from teachers, as well as mothers and fathers, who understand how to foster *yearning for God*, not just learning about God – and to do so for *all ages* of youth, from infancy to the end of the teenage years. This series of workshops, associated resource website (EducatingInChrist.com) and training events make this superlative formative approach accessible, affordable, and adaptable for a *much broader range* of situations and locations, reaching far more children and families.

These thorough and practical workshops will help you to:

- Deepen your sense of *wonder* at God's work in a child's heart from the earliest age.
- Broaden your *understanding* of child development and discover how to foster each child's capacity for God at every stage of development
- Increase your practical *skill set* for delivering the Gospel message to children in a concrete way that touches their hearts as well as their minds.

Whether you minister to children in your home or at school, this track will help you to lead children in the great adventure of falling in love with God.

Forming those who form others.

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven.'

MATTHEW 19:14



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Please note that some workshops are still in development and will be available for use in coming months.

Foundation of Educating in Christ

Understanding the EIC Approach

1. The Vision of the Educating in Christ Approach
2. Hearing God's Voice through the Scriptures: Learning to Let Christ Become the Teacher
3. Fostering a Child's Faith and Spiritual Growth: The Anthropology of Human Learning
4. Characteristics of the Educating in Christ Approach
5. The Child in Front of You: The Planes of Development from Infancy through Adolescence

Applying the EIC Approach to Your Children

Please choose at least 2 of the following from the Formation for the Developmental Stages series:

1. Ages 0-3
2. Ages 3-6
3. Ages 6-9
4. Ages 9-12
5. Ages 12-18

Applying the EIC Approach in Your Circumstances

1. From the Heart of Mother Church: Principles for Handling on the Faith Effectively
2. Pedagogy and Methodology of the Educating in Christ Approach
3. How Grace Works through the Ordinary: Why Practical Life Activities Matter
4. Essential Lessons for a Child New to the EIC Approach
5. Introducing the Liturgy to Children
6. Growing in Virtue: Moral Formation and Moral Reasoning
7. Authentic Seeking and Listening: Teaching Children How to Pray

Keystone 1 | Hearing and Giving Christ

Scripture

1. Introducing the Scriptures to Children
2. Teaching Children about Typology, Parables, and Miracles
3. Sacred Scripture: The Big Picture

Please choose at least 2 of the following:

4. Introduction to the Old Testament
5. Introduction to the New Testament
6. Scripture: The Heart of Catechesis
7. Scripture: The Driving Force of Doctrine

Methodology

1. Connecting Child Development with Catechetical Formation
2. Working with a Child's Free Will and Loving the Difficult Child
3. Program Planning and Assessment: Using the Learning Journal
4. Preparing Yourself and the Environment to Foster Contemplative Openness to God

Please choose at least 2 of the following:

5. Teaching Catechesis for Conversion
6. Contemporary Teaching Strategies
7. Preventive System of St John Bosco
8. The Ecclesial Method

Keystone 2 | Believing and Worshiping in Christ

Pillar I

1. The Father: Origin and Desire of All
2. Teaching Children about the Incarnation
3. Teaching Children about the Paschal Mystery

Please choose at least 2 of the following:

4. Teaching Children about Salvation History
5. The Sacramental Economy
6. The Human Person in God's Loving Plan
7. The Church: Dispenser of the Mysteries and Guardian of the Deposit of Faith

Pillar II

1. The Principle of Sacramentality and Sequencing the Teaching of the Sacraments
2. The Purpose of the Sacred Liturgy
3. Mystagogy and Key Moments in the Liturgy

Please choose at least 2 of the following:

4. Teaching Children about the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation
5. Teaching Children about the Eucharist
6. Teaching Children about the Sacraments at the Service of Healing
7. Teaching Children about the Sacraments at the Service of Building Up the Kingdom

Keystone 3 | Living and Praying in Christ

Pillar III

1. The Universal Call to Holiness
2. An Introduction to Objective Truth
3. Our Life in Christ: The Basics of Catholic Morality

Please choose at least 2 of the following:

4. Catholic Social Teaching
5. Family: Domestic Church and School of Holiness
6. A Foundational Vision: Theology of the Body
7. Teaching Your Children About God's Plan for Sexuality

Pillar IV

1. Holy Spirit: Converter of Hearts
2. Vocational Spirituality
3. Following Jesus: The Challenge of Discipleship

Please choose at least 2 of the following:

4. Prayer: Introduction to the Spiritual Life of the Catechist
5. The Theological Virtue of Hope
6. An Introduction to Spiritual Combat
7. Being Guided and Guiding Souls



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What is EIC?

Five Challenges You Can Meet through Us

In developing the EIC approach for Catholic schools and home settings, we sought to address five major challenges to Dr. Montessori's and Dr. Cavalletti's insights and methods reaching more children and families:

1 Cost of training

- We offer individuals (like a parent) *access to all training workshops* for as little as **\$3 per month**.
- We offer institutions (like a school) *access to all training workshops* for as little as **\$400 per year** for all those the school wishes to engage, including parents.
- We offer dioceses *custom pricing* for entire school systems or all-on-board access to any number of individuals, **suited to whatever the diocese can afford**.

2 Availability of training

- We offer our online formation workshops *asynchronously*, **always available** for initial training, deepening of training, expansion into other age levels, or refreshing of skills.
- We design our online formation workshops for *relational learning*, **well-suited for local group/faculty use**, as well as one-to-one mentoring or diocesan-wide video conferencing.
- We accommodate requests for *live on-site or video conferencing training events*, **to launch persuasively**, as well as to sustain momentum, encourage best practices, and address questions.

3 Cost of materials

- We design *beautiful, durable custom materials* to **significantly lower the entry cost** for each grade level's collection of needed 2D and 3D items.
- We search out *affordable sources* for other materials we don't sell directly, and **seek to collaborate, not compete** with other creative providers.
- We develop *enrichment collections* to give options to **form children beyond the basics** in areas such as: special needs, child saints, spiritual exercises, etc.

4 Adaptability for all grades

- We provide core training for *parents to ground children from birth to 3 years old* in this methodology, well **before school days** begin.
- We design our formation with *both the parent and the teacher* in mind, for **all grades pre-K to 12**.
- We prioritize *developing the spiritual life* of the adults who engage in our training, knowing that a child's yearning for God develops from **meeting a living witness to that desire**.

5 Adaptability for all spaces

- We work within the *assumption of limited spaces*; that a dedicated, fully supplied atrium space for all children of all ages levels is **difficult to achieve** in many schools and most homes.
- We *scale down our materials* to **accommodate a normal multi-use school classroom or home setting**, enabling compact in-room storage and practical set-up and break-down.
- We focus our training on the *essence of creating a contemplative learning environment*, prioritizing what **must not be compromised to foster an encounter between God and the child**.

Five Qualities You Can Expect of Us

Faithful

Holding to the Church's teaching and God's way of reaching and growing souls, with lessons steeped in liturgy and Scripture.

Flexible

Adaptable for the youngest toddler to the oldest teenager, in school or home settings of all degrees of space availability.

Personalist

Focusing on the person of the parent or teacher, not on a program, as the decisive influence in formation.

Holistic

Approaching the child from body to heart to mind, from earliest ages to the end of adolescence, to form spiritual maturity.

Affordable

Ensuring that cost is never the barrier to being deeply trained, and qualifying many teachers and parents in this approach.

How to Grow with EIC

Values added for those...

Taking our workshops

- We give you access to formation in the EIC approach for all ages 0-18 years old, meaning for you to gain qualification/certification in this method, **there are no further costs or steps.**
- We give you access to the entire ministry formation platform, not just the EIC Track and its workshops, meaning you can **gain from a much greater array of offerings.**
- We give you access to all other formative elements on the platform: our Catechetical Review magazine, our webinar series, our Guild circles and discussion boards, our past conference talks, and **many pathways to relationship with like-minded parents and teachers.**

In leadership roles

- We design the platform to enable leaders at various levels to see what their people are doing, track and manage their progress, issue certificates, assign mentors, and **customize offerings for local needs.**
- We offer formative networking through our [Guild for leadership](#) at the diocesan and local levels – our platform has 900+ diocesan leaders with accounts, learners from 130+ countries and territories, and local leaders from 4,500+ parishes and 1,000+ Catholic schools, and **connection to all other elements of Franciscan University's outreach.**
- We provide coaching towards effective leadership practices, and **personal mentoring for key figures** seeking to develop EIC in a diocese or local setting.

Seeking to encounter the Lord more deeply

- We create workshops for the EIC Track with training and skills-growth as secondary goals; *our primary goal is to grow a teacher or parent's spiritual life, prayer life, and ability to **give witness to a life of trusting God in all circumstances.***
- We provide access to a huge and immensely pragmatic collection of workshops and webinars in our [Ministry of Parenting Track](#), and since most teachers are married and have children of their own, this **gives those using our EIC Track a whole other world from which to gain.**
- We exist as part of a much larger outreach effort at Franciscan University, the most well-known form of which is **our adult and youth conferences**, which for decades have helped hundreds of thousands of people grow nearer to God and His Church.

Seeking to take a next step in their ministry or vocation

- We offer an array of [ministry area certifications](#), for **any type of disciple-making effort in the life of the Church**, such as [youth](#) and [young adult](#) ministry, [principals and school teachers](#), parish [catechists](#) and [catechetical leaders](#), [OCIA/RCIA team and leaders](#), [deacons](#), [Hispanic outreach](#), [marriage ministry](#), and other forms of [pastoral](#) and [evangelizing](#) ministries.
- We give a 20% discount in tuition (worth thousands of dollars) for any user of our tracks and workshops (EIC Track included) to matriculate **any of our online degrees in education, theology, catechetics, counseling, and philosophy.**
- We invite you to explore other immensely impactful forms of outreach at Franciscan University, such as **our [School of Spiritual Direction](#), our [pilgrimages](#), our [Faith and Reason resources](#), and our [other influential institutes](#).**

Ready to Start with EIC?

- Step 1** Visit and read through the basic sections of EIC's main site: EducatingInChrist.com.
- Step 2** Visit our flagship site and consider what type of subscription you'll need to gain access to the EIC Track formation/training workshops: FranciscanAtHome.com.
- Step 3** Look over the structure of the [EIC Track](#) to understand what is needed to be trained in this approach.
- Step 4** Decide how to acquire what is needed in terms of [purchasing or creating materials](#).
- Step 5** Decide how to [designate/train local mentors](#) and schedule with us one or more [launch/training events](#).

Getting Started with EIC

Step 1

Visit and read through the basic sections of EIC's main site: EducatingInChrist.com.

- This site provides **access to purchasable, downloadable sets of 2D & 3D materials**, sourced to be inexpensive.
- This site hosts **demonstration videos, how-to tutorials, answers to common questions**, and other helpful links.
- This site offers **access to downloadable guidebooks for each lesson for each grade**, and other associated elements such as learning journals.

Step 2

Visit our flagship site and consider what type of subscription you'll need to gain access to the EIC Track formation/training workshops: FranciscanAtHome.com.

- If you are an **individual parent or a teacher** seeking formation and training in the EIC approach outside of a diocesan partnership, you can enter [here](#).
- If you are an **institutional leader** (parish, school, religious order, or apostolate), you can sign up your organization and give access to all those under your leadership by clicking on the "Institutional Subscriptions" button [here](#).
- If you are a **diocesan leader or superintendent**, you can contact the regional liaison for your location by clicking on the "Diocesan Partnerships" button [here](#).

Step 3

Look over the structure of the [EIC Track](#) to understand what is needed to be trained in this approach.

- The track is divided into four sections or courses of study. The **Foundation level** is designed to give any teacher or parent the fundamentals needed to begin using the EIC approach with children of any age and any setting. Upon completion of this set of workshops, successful use of this approach can begin in a school or home.
- The trio of **Keystone sections** are not electives, but instead provide the needed deepening in spirituality, doctrine, and methodology needed to wield the EIC approach with a strong sense of ownership of the approach and impact upon a child's faith life. These Keystone sets of workshops can be done by teachers or parents concurrently with use of EIC guidebooks and lessons with children.
- These workshops are **best when experienced relationally: in groups of teachers, within a married couple, or among several parents**. The pace of these workshops is up to the individuals taking them or local institutional leadership. Each workshop typically takes 3-4 hours to complete, usually spread over the course of 2-4 weeks.

Step 4

Decide how to acquire what is needed in terms of purchasing or creating materials.

- Some needed elements can be **downloaded from our [EIC website](#) or purchased through this site**.
- Other elements can be **purchased from sites recommended in our [materials inventory](#)** or found elsewhere via your own searching.
- There is always the **option to create your own materials in part or entirely**, and we provide [tutorial videos](#) and links to other sites that help in that effort.

Step 5

Decide how to designate and train local mentors and schedule with us one or more launch events or trainings.

- We have workshops specifically to **train local mentors as needed, at no extra cost**, and we can work with any number of people at whatever pace is desired. The best-case scenario is for at least one EIC-attuned local mentor to be able to accompany others (teachers and/or parents) through the EIC Track, at a locally determined pace, either individually or in groups.
- We offer **launch events for free** either on-site or via Zoom, as well as follow-up training if desired (no speaker fees; only expenses are any travel costs).
- EIC is an adaptation for home and school settings of Dr. Maria Montessori, Dr. Sofia Cavalletti, and Gianna Gobbi's pedagogical insights. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is the definitive expression of their superlative approach to forming children. For dioceses (or school systems within a diocese) that adopt the EIC approach in an all-on-board manner, **we strongly encourage that mentor figures be trained in Level One, Two, and/or Three through a qualified CGS trainer, and we offer a [scholarship option](#) that can enable this invaluable training**.