



لِلْعَالَمِينَ

TEACHER'S GUIDE

INTRODUCTORY LEVEL



Teacher's Guide

Introductory Level

للعالمين 

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Introduction

All praise belongs to Allah. We praise Him, ask for His help, and seek His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of ourselves and our misdeeds. Whoever Allah guides, none can lead astray; and whoever He misguides, none can guide. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone, without any partner, and that Muhammad is His slave and messenger.

The first few years of a Muslim child's life are pivotal for instilling basic Islamic beliefs, values, and high Islamic morals, as well as educational principles and training that have far-reaching effects for the rest of their life.

Researchers in the field of education agree that a child's personality is formed in the first six years of their life, which makes these years of the utmost importance in forming a Muslim personality which is proud of its religion and strong in its determination to bear the responsibilities that await it.

This guide aims to provide educators with the tools and strategies necessary to create a suitable learning environment that is conducive to forming young Muslims who are connected to their Lord from the stage of early childhood.

In the Introductory syllabus, which is aimed at ages 3-5, *The Generation of the Caliphate* series combines all that educators and teachers need to teach the child and prepare them for the advanced levels. The syllabus focuses on basic Islamic beliefs (*'aqīdah*), morals and teaching by example, in addition to developing the child's skill at observation, research and making connections through teaching them the basics of knowledge.

Before detailing the contents of the syllabus and the ways of presenting them, we begin by giving a short summary of some important concepts in education.

Creating a suitable learning environment

Creating an organized and stimulating learning environment is of utmost importance as it allows for the development of children's abilities on the intellectual, emotional, and most importantly, the *īmān* levels. Thus, the learning environment should reflect Islamic morals and values and create a space where children feel safe and capable of learning.

Creating a suitable environment for teaching and learning involves the following aspects:

Preparing an outer space

During the preparation of outer spaces, whether at home or in the classroom, there should always be a designated prayer area and a reading corner. There should also be special spaces for learning, such as a desk or table. It is important for educators to pay attention to these details, which connect children from an early age to the seriousness of learning, as well as giving them a feeling of safety. This is done by making timetables specifically for reading, starting with learning the verses of the Noble Qur'an, Sunnah texts and morals. The learning process should include activities that stimulate the child's creative thinking so that they become more enthusiastic with each learning session.

One of the ideas that an educator can use to grow a connection between the child and their learning space, is to display the child's drawings and handiwork on the walls, so that they are seen by all the children in the learning space. In order to support the learning process further, the drawings should be focused on Arabic writing and Islamic morals.

Creating a table of tasks

At first, the child will not grasp what the teacher is attempting to convey to them. However, with regular and consistent classes, the vision will gain clarity. It is a process of laying one brick over another until the building rises on strong and firm foundations. This can be achieved by dividing the tasks which instill Islamic values and teachings slowly and gradually but on a regular basis, in a way that takes the child's level of comprehension into account and guarantees success in their learning.

Despite the importance of planning and dividing tasks throughout the day, many educators find it difficult to achieve their goals. The following points contain important words of advice to help educators achieve consistency, which is a crucial element in creating a suitable learning environment for the child.

- Set realistic and well-defined goals.
- Break down tasks into smaller and more achievable ones.
- Create a daily timetable that includes a set time for each task.
- Motivate children and give them prizes to achieve further progress.

It is important for children to feel involved and responsible for their own learning. The child's participation in designing the table of tasks can be a motivating factor for them. You can also print out a daily timetable of tasks and hang it up on the wall of the child's personal learning space. Otherwise, you can design the table by hand along with the child. You will find a template for a printable timetable attached to this guide.

Daily Timetable

Wake up early, make the bed, and say the supplication for waking up.

Eat healthy food.

Drink lots of water throughout the day.

Read some surahs from the Qur'an.

Help family members with household chores.

Pray on time, remember Allah and make du'aa'.

Practice mental math.

Read a book in Arabic.

Learn something new or play an educational game.

Do an activity such as drawing, cut and paste, gardening, etc.

Play with siblings.

Watch a useful program on Youtube with all the family, for example a program about the Seerah or about the stories of the Sahabah (Companions).

Daily Accountability Timetable

I woke up early.

I ate healthy food.

I made my bed.

I took care of my cleanliness.

I brushed my teeth.

I revised my lessons and went to school early.

I read my Athkaar (words of remembrance).

I obeyed my parents and helped them.

I was polite to my siblings.

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

DAILY SCHEDULE



- I wake up early, make my bed, and recite the morning supplication.



- I eat healthy food.



- I drink plenty of water throughout the day.



- I read some chapters from the Holy Qur'an.



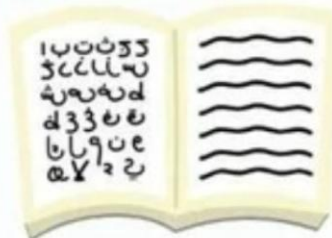
- I help my family with household chores.



- I maintain my prayers on time, along with remembering Allah and making supplications.



- I practice mental math.



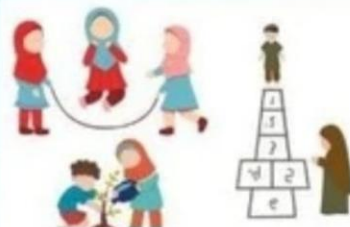
- I read a book in Arabic.



- I learn something new or play an educational and beneficial game.



- I engage in an activity such as drawing, cutting and pasting, or gardening.



- I play freely with my siblings.



- I watch a beneficial program with my family on YouTube: about the Prophet's life, stories of his companions...

DAILY MONITORING SCHEDULE



	- I wake up early.	- I eat healthy food.	- I make my bed.	- I maintain my cleanliness.	- I brush my teeth.	- I review my lessons and go to school early.	- I recite my supplications.	- I obey my parents and help them.	- I'm polite with my siblings.
Saturday									
Sunday									
Monday									
Tuesday									
Wednesday									
Thursday									
Friday									

Creating a children's library

You can also create a small library containing a variety of books appropriate for children. The presence of the library would be a motivating factor in itself, encouraging children to read and also to understand the importance of books and to learn how to deal with them. In order for children to grow familiar with these books, it is very important to fix certain times to read together in a way that is fun and exciting. This will be elaborated on later, Allah willing.

It is not necessary for the library to be very grand or expensive. It is enough to have clean shelves on which books can be arranged in an organized manner. Getting the child used to a library, from which they can take their books, even if it only consists of one shelf, will be the start of the child's learning research methodology. The child will learn how to get their information from the books in the library.

Spaces for Practical Work

Providing spaces for practical work, which encourages the child to think, work and achieve, is a useful element in the learning environment. This is why gardening is a much beloved activity in the learning process. Gardening has many benefits when it comes to learning, as it helps the child acquire good qualities like patience and a sense of responsibility. It is also an inexpensive activity.

Reading aloud

Reading aloud is a very powerful way of helping children improve their language skills as well as instilling a love of books. Reading aloud is a very important means of presenting Islamic teachings and stories in a comprehensible way. It is important to ensure that the voice is audible and to use body language and gestures when reading. This is no less important than what is being read to the child, because a large part of understanding and acquiring language is related to the sounds and movements that accompany it.

In order to achieve this, here are a few words of advice:

- Use different tones for different characters, to bring the characters to life and make the story more interesting.
- Use appropriate gestures and facial expressions for each situation in the story, to grab the child's attention and reinforce their understanding of the text, allowing them to grasp different expressions such as questioning, sadness, happiness, enthusiasm, scolding, etc.
- After reading, ask the children to comment or ask questions. Ask interactive questions to make it easier for the children to participate.
- Choose stories that are appropriate for the child's age and interests. There should be a focus on stories that convey Islamic values, useful teachings and information which would benefit the children.
- It is recommended to encourage role-playing. After repeating the story more than once, give the children a space to enact the story themselves. This can help them

develop many linguistic and social skills, as well as reinforce their confidence in themselves.

Develop listening and speaking skills

Effective communication is a key skill in all fields of learning, especially for children. Effective communication which is based on listening can develop children's social and linguistic intelligence, which strengthens their powers of expression.

In order to reinforce listening skills, you can add daily activities that focus on recitation to the table of tasks. The best way you can reinforce listening skills is by reciting the Qur'an and repeating the verses until you find your child repeating after you automatically.

Teachers should remove all distractions and encourage the children to listen carefully. Interactive reading sessions, in which children are asked to answer questions about the story, can also help improve their comprehension and listening skills.

Speaking skills can be reinforced through various activities whose purpose is to encourage children to express their thoughts and feelings. This helps develop children's confidence and communication skills.

You can make monthly plans to have speaking sessions with your child, by choosing weekly topics that are age-appropriate and combining these topics with interactive activities that encourage the child to speak and produce verbal output. The chosen topics should be easy and comprehensible. For example, you could bring pictures of farm or jungle animals, or toy models in the shape of animals, along with a picture of a farm and another of a jungle. You could then ask the child: "Where does such-and-such animal live?"

You can also use Arabic video clips about the names of the animals, or any other topic, before you begin the speaking reinforcement session.

In addition, you can reinforce the use of basic Arabic words or phrases related to daily habits and Islamic practices, such as greeting people on the two 'Eids as well as repeating the words or phrases spoken by the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Encourage the child to repeat these terms, which helps develop the child's linguistic skills and their Islamic identity.

To add some fun to these sessions, you can hold an elocution competition, whereby the children share their thoughts on stage. This will be their first lesson in giving speeches.

Teaching sounds and pronunciation

Phonological awareness, or the ability to recognize different spoken sounds, is an important skill which needs to be learned in order to develop early reading skills. It can be integrated with learning how to read the Qur'an and the sounds of the Arabic language in a smooth and engaging way.

1. Phonological awareness exercises

(a) Snap the forefinger and thumb

- Recognize syllables by snapping the forefinger and thumb according to the number of syllables in a word. You can start with simple words like Mu-hamm-ad and *ki-taab* (book).
- Divide Islamic terms like *Al-ham-du-lillaah* into syllables.

This helps the child understand how syllables are broken up and how to spell words.

(b) Rhyming Games

- Learn about rhyming words that comprise Islamic terminology. Play games with Islamic words and phrases that rhyme, for example *Ghufraan* (forgiveness), *Īmān* (faith) and Qur'ān.

This activity can be done by choosing a number of words that are appropriate for children aged 3-5. Each word is to be written on a small piece of paper. These pieces of paper are mixed up in a small cup or box, then the child is allowed to spell the words and arrange them according to the rhyme.

This activity develops children's linguistic intelligence and helps them recognize sound patterns for different words.

2. Learn correct pronunciation

(a) Pronounce letters and sounds

- Arabic letters: teach children the correct way to pronounce Arabic letters and sounds, such as the difference between ح (*hā'*) and خ (*khā'*), ع (*'ayn*) and غ (*ghayn*).
- Qur'an recitation: focus on reciting the Qur'an correctly with proper pronunciation while observing the rules of *tajwīd*.

(b) Use multimedia

- Drawings and images: use drawings that contain Arabic letters, with images for words that begin with those letters. For example, the letter *alif* can be shown with an image of a lion (*asad*); the letter *bā'* with an image of a sea (*baḥr*), and so on. This makes the learning process engaging and effective.
- Educational videos: you can also make use of educational videos that show the correct way to pronounce letters and sounds.

3. Interactive activities

(a) Educational games

- **The moving letters game**

This game has cards with the letters written on them. The child arranges the cards to form words. This helps the child recognize letter formation and how to pronounce the letters correctly.

(b) Practical activities

- Illustrated stories: read illustrated stories that contain pictures with the targeted sounds. This helps the child connect the sound with its respective words and pictures.

Teaching sounds and pronunciation in an engaging and enjoyable way reinforces the child's ability to recognize sounds and clips. This develops their linguistic skills and improves their ability to read the Qur'an correctly. By using interactive activities, educational games, and multimedia, one can achieve the goal of teaching children in an effective and enjoyable way.

Teaching letters

Objectives:

1. To be able to recognize the Arabic alphabet: reinforce the children's knowledge of the Arabic alphabet visually and vocally.
2. Connect the letters to their sounds: help children connect the letters to the sounds that they represent.
3. Encourage reading and writing: encourage children to enjoy the process of learning and to interact with the letters.

Methodology:

Teaching letters is crucial, especially in the early years of childhood. The educator must vary the activities while ensuring that the process of learning is repeated frequently, until the child acquires the ability to express themselves and gains a rich vocabulary.

The following are a few examples of activities that you can include in the learning program for teaching letters:

1. Visual aids

The visual and audio element, such as images, videos, and educational rhymes, help reinforce the child's memory.

For example:

- Educational songs (without music): start every session with an alphabet sound. This helps children learn the order of the Arabic letters and to recognize their sounds. You can also use video clips that contain words beginning with that letter, in order to reinforce auditory memory.

2. Interactive games

For example:

- Letter cards: make cards with letters on them along with pictures related to those letters. Let the children recognize individual letters and match them with the right pictures.
- Jumping games: place large letters on the ground and ask the children to jump on the letters that you say.
- Magnet games: use letter magnets on a metal board so that the children can learn about the letters and make simple words with them.

3. Hand activities:

- Letter coloring: print papers with large letters on them so that the children can color them. You can encourage them to use matching colors with words that begin with those letters.
 - Clay letters: let the children make letters using clay. This reinforces sensory and motor learning.
- 4. Interactive reading:**
- **Picture alphabet books:** read the children books that contain pictures and words beginning with each letter. Involve the children in reading by making them repeat the sounds and words after you.
 - **Short stories:** write short stories containing words that begin with a certain letter. Ask the children to underline the words that begin with that letter.
- 5. Basic writing:**
- **Writing with dots:** use pages containing letters with dots. Let the children trace the dots with their pencils.
 - **Writing on sand:** let the children write the letters on sand. This can help them improve their writing skills.

Building children’s knowledge and thinking skills

Objectives:

1. To develop critical thinking skills: encourage children to analyze, evaluate and solve problems.
2. To reinforce creative thinking: encourage children to be inventive and to think outside the box.
3. To deepen subject knowledge: teach the children the basics through active learning and effective participation.

Methodology:

1. Discovery-based learning:

Learning through discovery turns the student from a passive learner into an active learner and knowledge seeker. This type of learning helps the child to follow evidence and write down results. This enables the child to gain the skills required to deal with, and solve, new problems.

- **Īmān-related activities:**

It is important to draw children’s attention to *īmān*-related issues from their earliest years. This can reinforce good qualities within them, such as being patient, putting others first, and being generous. This can be done through the following activities:

- Stories of the prophets and companions: read stories about the prophets and companions to children in order to teach them *īmān*-based values and good behavior.

- Good deeds: organize activities that encourage children to participate in good deeds, such as distributing food to the needy or collecting donations.
- Reflection and contemplation: make time to reflect on nature and talk about the creation of Allah. This helps children develop a deeper spiritual connection.
- **Scientific activities:**
Use simple science experiments to help children discover scientific concepts. For example, you can do the vinegar and baking soda experiment to learn about chemical reactions. Growing plants is also a popular way to teach children about the life cycle of plants and to make them understand the importance of the environment.

2. Art and handicrafts:

- **Art projects:** encourage children to express their thoughts and feelings through drawing, coloring, and making handicrafts.
- **Models:** use simple materials like clay, paper and cubes to make models.

3. Educational games:

- **Brain games:** use puzzles and memory games.
- **Group games:** encourage children to play in groups to reinforce cooperation and communication skills.

4. Interactive reading and discussion:

- **Educational stories:** choose a book that contains educational stories aimed at developing thinking skills. Read the story with the children and discuss the main ideas and lessons that can be learnt from it.
- **Open discussions:** organize discussion sessions about various topics and encourage children to express their ideas and views.

5. Sports activities:

- **Physical sports:** use sports games as they help stimulate children's circulatory system as well as their thought process and quickness of response.

Conclusion:

- Encourage the child to ask questions and be curious.
- Provide games which motivate children to think creatively and logically, and which develop their mental skills.
- Motivate the child to read, which reinforces linguistic and conceptual thinking. It is recommended to present the child with a variety of books that are appropriate for their age.
- Reinforce scientific experimentation by giving the child opportunities to conduct simple science experiments.
- Develop the child's problem-solving skills by giving them small problems to solve.

- Reinforce the child's critical thinking skills by asking them questions about various ideas and concepts.
- Have conversations which encourage the child to think deeply and which reinforce their linguistic and analytical skills.
- Develop the child's social thinking skills by encouraging them to interact with others, which grows their social thinking skills and cooperation.
- Motivate the child to think outside the box and develop creative skills through creative activities.

Teaching numbers and counting

Objectives:

1. To recognize the numbers: teach the children to recognize the numbers from 1-10, then until 20, and so on.
2. To count correctly: let the children count in the correct order and in the opposite order.
3. To match numbers and quantities: help the children match the numbers with the right quantities.
4. To reinforce logical thinking: encourage the children to think logically when dealing with numbers and counting.

Methodology:

1. Practical activities:

- **Number cards:** use cards that contain numbers and illustrations to help the child recognize numbers and match them to the right quantities.
- **Counting with toys:** make the child count toys or colored balls. This helps reinforce their understanding through play.

2. Interactive games:

- **Jumping games:** place numbers on the floor, then ask the children to jump on them in the right order. You can vary the game by asking them to jump on odd or even numbers.
- **Puzzles:** use puzzles that involve arranging the numbers in the right order.

3. Art activities:

- **Number coloring:** provide pages that contain numbers for the children to color. The numbers can be matched to pictures showing various quantities. For example, the children can be asked to color the number three along with three apples.
- **Clay numbers:** let the children make numbers using clay. This helps them learn the numbers in a sensory way that is also fun.

4. Interactive reading:

- **Illustrated number books:** use books that contain pictures and numbers in order to read them with the children. Ask the children to underline the numbers and match them to the right quantities in the pictures.
- **Number stories:** read the children educational stories about numbers. Ask them to count and identify the numbers in the stories.

5. Physical activities:

- **Count while moving:** ask the children to count while jumping or exercising, for example by jumping ten times or doing five exercises.
- **Following the leader:** make the children follow the group leader, who will count and make a movement at the same time, for example by clapping five times or knocking on the table three times.

Words of advice for teachers

- Be patient and encouraging: provide constant support and encouragement to children by reinforcing their confidence in themselves.
- Vary the activities: use a variety of activities in order to sustain the children's interest and motivate them to learn.
- Create a positive learning environment: provide the children with a safe and encouraging learning environment which enables them to enjoy learning without fear of failure.
- Allow real-life application of what the child is learning by practicing, explaining and connecting it appropriately to their daily life. You should pay attention to reinforcing Islamic beliefs and morals continuously.
- Teaching children numbers and counting requires the use of various interesting activities. By using the strategies and activities mentioned in this guide, teachers and parents can reinforce children's numerical skills in engaging and effective ways.
- Repetition remains the best way to reinforce concepts and information. Asking interactive questions increases the children's passion, sustains their interest and allows the teacher to evaluate their level of understanding.
- The teacher must be a role model in whatever they are teaching. The child remembers best what they are taught by their role models, and this is what they retain as they grow up.

Evaluation

The importance of evaluating the child's progress

Evaluating the child's progress in the early childhood stage is very important for several reasons:

1. It enables the educator to understand the child's strengths and weaknesses: evaluation helps to identify areas of distinction and challenges for each child.
2. It enables the educator to plan their teaching: the educator is able to choose educational programs that are suited to each child's needs.
3. It enables the educator to track the child's growth: it allows the educator to track the child's growth and progress.

Main evaluation criteria

When evaluating the child's progress, the educator must focus on a few main areas:

1. Physical growth: this includes gross and fine motor skills.
2. Social and emotional growth: this includes interaction with peers and elders, and the development of self-awareness.
3. Cognitive growth: this includes thinking skills, such as problem-solving, linguistic skills and numerical skills.
4. Linguistic growth: this includes comprehension skills and effective use of language.
5. Creative growth: this includes artistic expression and imaginative play.

Evaluation tools and methods

1. Direct observation:
 - Watch the child during daily activities and note down remarks about their behavior and interaction.
2. Interaction with the children:
 - Ask the children about their interests and ideas.
 - Use open-ended questions to encourage the children to express themselves.
3. Standardized tests:
 - Use age-appropriate standardized tests to evaluate the children's academic skills.
 - Ensure that tests are balanced and cover the main areas of evaluation.

How to use evaluation results:

1. Develop individual learning plans:
 - Use the evaluation results to come up with specific activities that are suited to each child's needs.
 - Set short-term and long-term goals based on the children's strengths and weaknesses.
2. Continuous feedback:
 - Use feedback to reinforce positivity and motivation.
3. Early intervention:
 - Use the evaluation results to detect any delayed growth or learning disabilities.

Evaluation strategies:

- Continuous evaluation: track the children's progress continuously and use continuous evaluation to identify areas that require reinforcement.
- Constructive feedback: provide the children with constructive feedback and help them understand their strengths and areas that require improvement.
- Practical evaluation: use practical activities and games as tools to evaluate the children's level of understanding when it comes to numbers and counting.

Evaluating children's progress in the early childhood stage is not only a process of collecting data. Rather, it is a great tool to build their educational future, enhance their growth and prepare the generation of the caliphate.

Being patient when dealing with developmentally delayed children

Patience is the key to success. Education is a plant that needs water and warmth, as well as patience, in order to grow. We must not forget to rely on Allah the Almighty and Exalted, and to make *du'ā'* (supplication). If a child is slow at understanding instructions or digesting information, here is your guide to deal with them.

Understanding the reasons for delayed development

There are many reasons for delayed development among children in the early childhood stage. It is important to understand these reasons so as to provide appropriate support:

1. Biological factors: such as health issues or genetic problems.
2. Environmental factors: such as social and economic circumstances.
3. Psychological factors: such as psychological trauma or anxiety.
4. Educational factors: such as lack of motivation or suitable educational intervention.

Strategies that involve being patient and supportive:

1. Understanding and acceptance:
 - Understand that each child develops at their own pace.
 - Accept that delayed development is not always an indicator of weaker abilities.
2. Communication:
 - Ensure continuous communication with the children in order to understand their needs.
 - Use simple, clear language in order to make communication easier.
3. Positive reinforcement:
 - Give praise and encouragement when the child achieves small goals.
 - Use token rewards to reinforce positive behaviors.
4. Personalized education:
 - Design educational activities that suit each child's level and abilities.
 - Use learning through play in order to encourage participation and interaction.
5. Patience and flexibility:
 - Give the children enough time to learn and respond.
 - Be flexible and adjust learning methods according to the child's responsiveness.

You can use the following:

1. Timetables with fixed routines:

- Use a daily timetable to give daily activities some structure and organization.
- Help the child know what to expect/develop a sense of predictability, which reduces anxiety.

2. Visual aids:

- Use images and drawings to explain instructions and concepts.
- Use colored cards to organize activities and tasks.

3. Educational games:

- Use educational games to develop academic and social skills.
- Encourage group play to reinforce cooperation and participation.

4. Relaxation techniques:

- Use breathing and relaxation exercises to calm the children down.
- Take regular breaks to prevent exhaustion.

How to deal with challenges:

1. Dealing with difficult behaviors:

- Deal with difficult behaviors calmly and firmly.
- Use positive reinforcement strategies instead of punishment.

2. Dealing with anxiety:

- Provide a relaxed and supportive learning environment.
- Use relaxation techniques such as silent reading or drawing.

3. Track progress and perform continuous evaluation:

- Evaluate the child's progress continuously using appropriate evaluation tools.
- Adjust support strategies according to evaluation results.

Dealing with developmentally delayed children in the early childhood stage requires a lot of patience and a deep understanding of their needs. By using various strategies and techniques, the educator can provide the necessary support to these children, which will help them overcome challenges effectively.

Caring for children's psychological state

The psychological state of a child refers to their emotional and mental condition. The child's psychological wellbeing includes their ability to deal with their emotions, build positive relationships, and adapt to changes. Psychological health is an essential part of the child's overall growth.

Psychological characteristics of children in the early childhood stage

1. Emotional volatility: children at this stage show intense and quickly changeable emotions such as joy, anger and sadness.

2. Social interaction: children begin to form relationships with their peers and elders, and show a desire to play and cooperate with others.
3. The development of identity: children begin to form an idea about themselves and to know their abilities and interests.
4. The need for safety: children seek safety and affection from trusted grownups, which reinforces their confidence in themselves and the world around them.
5. Curiosity and exploration: children have a desire to explore the surrounding environment and to learn by trial and error.

How to understand the child's needs

As mentioned previously, one of the most effective ways to understand children is by minute observation and constant communication with them. This gives the educator a chance to understand the meaning behind a child's non-verbal cues, such as facial expressions and body language.

How to care for the child's psychological wellbeing

- **Build a safe and supportive environment:**
 - Provide an encouraging environment in which the child feels safe and relaxed.
 - Avoid harsh criticisms and provide the child with intensive support in all conditions.
- **Communicate effectively:**
 - Listen to the child, paying close attention to what they are saying.
 - Use positive and encouraging body language.
- **Reinforce the child's confidence:**
 - Encourage the child to try new things and take calculated risks under your supervision.
- **Develop social skills:**
 - Encourage group activities and cooperation among the children.
- **Teach the child how to deal with their emotions:**
 - Teach the child how to recognize their emotions:
 - Teach the child to identify their emotions by using words such as “angry”, “sad”, “upset”, etc.
 - Use stories and games to help the child learn about emotions.
 - Use verbal expression:
 - Encourage the child to talk about their emotions instead of crying or screaming.
 - Give examples explaining how to express anger in healthy ways, for example by saying “I’m angry because...”
 - Use calming techniques:

- Teach the child how to breathe deeply and use relaxation techniques.
 - Encourage the child to count down slowly from 1 to 10 in order to calm themselves down.
 - Look for solutions:
 - Encourage the child to think of alternative solutions to problems that cause their anger.
 - Use problem-solving exercises to reinforce the child’s critical thinking skills.
 - Engage in physical activity:
 - Use physical activities like running or jumping to release excess energy.
 - Offer activities like drawing or playing with clay in order to channel negative feelings in constructive ways.
 - Positive reinforcement:
 - Praise the child when they express their emotions in healthy ways.
 - Offer small rewards to encourage positive behavior.
- Exercises and activities
1. Emotion board:
 - Set up a board with faces expressing different emotions. Let the children choose the face that represents their own emotion.
 2. Stories about emotions:
 - Read stories about how to deal with anger in the correct way. Discuss the characters and their emotions with the children.
 3. The “What makes you angry?” game:
 - Sit with the children in a circle and ask them to share something that makes them angry. Together, you can then discuss ways of dealing with this anger.

Caring for children’s psychological wellbeing in the early childhood stage is an essential part of the teacher’s role. By using various strategies and techniques, you can provide the children with the necessary support to reinforce their psychological health and overall development.

The Generation of the Caliphate syllabus for the introductory level

The Generation of the Caliphate syllabus for the introductory level (ages 3-5) contains the following files:

1. The Teacher’s Guide
2. Qur’an memorization
3. My Creed
4. The Pillars of Islam
5. The Biography of the Prophet (may Allah’s peace and blessings be upon him)
6. The Hadith Book
7. The Prophets (peace and blessings of Allah be upon them)

8. The Alphabet Book
9. The Alphabet Stories
10. The Alphabet Notebook
11. The Book of Time and Directions
12. The Book of Cleanliness
13. The Science Book
14. The Mathematics Book
15. The Activity Book
16. The Coloring Book
17. Paper Activities
18. The Recipe Book
19. The Little Muslim's Book of Manners
20. The Story Collection: 32 Stories for Children (7 stories on manners, 12 stories of the prophets, 8 stories of role models, and 5 stories from the Qur'an)
21. The Educational Alphabet Poem
22. The Ten Companions Who Were Promised Paradise – Educational Poem

How do I use the introductory level syllabus?

The introductory level syllabus is aimed at the age group between 3-5 years. This means that, whatever the child's age, we must begin by teaching them the alphabet through the Arabic alphabet book; then the alphabet stories, which give a summary of each letter; then the coloring book, to practice writing.

The purpose of these resources is to connect the child to the letters, their meanings, and writing them correctly. Even if the child knows how to write, it is important to progress gradually with the syllabus in order to ensure consistency and regularity in learning. In this case, reading and familiarizing the child with the letters will be faster according to the child's age and quickness in understanding.

It is recommended for the teacher to read the texts clearly, in an engaging way. They should then read along with the child simultaneously, then allow the child to repeat the texts on their own, and to explain the texts in their own words, in their own way. Teachers vary in their skill at reading for children. The more we are able to encourage the child to read, the more promising the results will be.

The teacher must divide the day according to what suits both them and the child. It is advisable to begin with the Noble Qur'an, and to teach the child how to read it gradually, even if the child memorizes only one verse starting from the age of three. We may then increase the amount they memorize, according to the child's ability and speed.

The purpose of our syllabus for the introductory level is to reinforce the information contained in the books that have been included. However, the teacher may sometimes need to simplify concepts and attend more to curious children who might require further explanation. There is no problem if the teacher expands on topics as per the need.

Some of the textbooks, such as *My Creed, Pillars of Islam* and the book of *Hadith*, involve explanation as well as memorization at the same time. Others require the teacher to cover the meanings, apply them in real life, and mention them repeatedly in a way that causes the child to love what they are learning. This can be done with the biography of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the stories of the prophets (peace be upon them). Other textbooks, such as *The Book of Time and Directions*, *The Book of Cleanliness*, and the science and math books, require training the child to think and to understand their surroundings and everyday life. These books help develop the child's skills together with the appended activity books that include paper activities and coloring.

This foundation is complete with practical exercises that give the child a sense of responsibility, achievement and happiness. *The Recipe Book* contains a number of simple, practical recipes that the child can follow themselves under adult supervision. Teaching the child to take part in such activities has a positive influence on their developing a sense of responsibility, growing in confidence, and channeling their abilities and skills in real life, which speeds up the learning process and makes it more enjoyable.

The teacher may need further guidance on the process of educating children by making learning fun. This enriches the children's memory and gives them happy memories.

At the introductory level, there must be a special focus on stories, as they have a deep impact on forming the personality of a Muslim child. Therefore, *The Generation of the Caliphate* series provides a complete collection of stories that create a foundation of awareness in the child's mind, which then influences the remaining stages of learning. Our collection of stories includes thirty-two stories for children; seven are about morals that the child needs in their life; twelve are stories of the prophets, which create foundational awareness in the child's mind, so that they know the stories of the prophets which will later be elaborated on in upcoming stages; these are followed by eight stories about role models, which include the Righteous Caliphs and female companions such as the Mothers of the Believers; finally, there are five stories from the Noble Qur'an.

The teacher should peruse these stories before reading them to the child, and they must be prepared for questions that they might be asked. Then, the teacher should read and repeat the story to the child. The teacher must allow the child to interact with the story by asking general questions and commenting on aspects that grabbed their attention. The more interesting the reading is, the more attached the child will become to reading and listening. It must be noted that most children at this age may not be good at reading, for which we will provide more intensive and specialized textbooks as part of the upcoming First Level syllabus. However, visual memory is very helpful in the child's retaining information, and it increases the child's passion for listening and learning. In order to achieve this, it is recommended to choose suitable times for reading, such as right before bed, during breaks or in an atmosphere that the child prefers.

The Muslim Child's Book of Manners can be considered a textbook that summarizes many morals and helps the teacher to make proper behavior and actions beloved to the child.

In order to deepen the child's understanding of learning material, *The Generation of the Caliphate* presents two educational poems for this level. These are the Alphabet Poem and the poem about the ten Companions who were promised Paradise. The purpose of these poems is

to get the child used to memorization and understanding the meanings of such poems. If the child is unable to memorize the poems, they can enjoy listening to other poems that are suited to this age and that are in accordance with the framework of the introductory level which is suited to the child's age group.

Seeing the difficulties that some parents face in teaching their children, *The Generation of the Caliphate* provides visual material for most of its content on YouTube, in an attempt to make the learning process easier for families and to encourage children to learn through images and sounds. Educators can use this resource to provide an enjoyable learning experience for children. In addition, when the child watches stories in episodes and uses illustrated educational books, this makes them easier to retain, especially as they are read by other children, in order to make the child more comfortable and increase their confidence by imitation and reading on their own.

It is very important to reinforce information at this stage, because it makes it easier for us to then move on to the first level, which we cannot begin until we ensure that we have completed the introductory level and created a strong foundation and prepared the child for upcoming levels in a way that respects the child's need for clarity and gradual accumulative learning.

It must also be noted that children will vary in their responsiveness to the introductory level syllabus. Therefore, the teacher must ensure that 70% of the information in the syllabus has been retained. This will be sufficient. The teacher can test the child's understanding through constant revision and interactive questions which summarize and reinforce important information. The teacher must do what they can.

The books of the introductory level syllabus introduce the child to certain topics so that they enter their first learning years having learnt fundamentals that are easy to comprehend and essential to a proper Islamic upbringing.

Seeing that obstacles in the path of learning and teaching may vary from one place to another, and from one individual to another, *The Generation of the Caliphate* provides a free consultation service on the *Katā'ib Al-Himmah* website as well as its social media accounts.

Afterword

The process of teaching requires the assistance of Allah the Almighty and Exalted. Therefore, it is not enough simply to use whatever means necessary to make the process work; rather, this preparation should be accompanied with reliance of Allah, for all good is in His Hand. One should also be keen on obeying Allah the Almighty and Exalted, because our houses become righteous only by our obedience towards Allah.

Teaching should be done with a sincere intention. Only that which is done for Allah's sake will remain and continue. Let us follow the example of the righteous predecessors in this regard.

Mu'āwiyah (may Allah be pleased with him) once said, 'Make your children righteous by starting with yourself. Your children follow you in everything; whatever you consider good is what they will consider good, and whatever you consider evil is what they will consider evil.'

Teaching by example remains the most effective teaching method when it comes to young ones.

We can only get satisfactory results through consistency and guarding our posts by teaching with patience, devotion and certainty. There should be equal importance given to attending the child's emotional needs, so that they develop confidence in themselves and feel safe and loved. However, one must also ensure moderation in this aspect and avoid unfairness between children in terms of giving rewards and attention.

One must also beware of destructive elements which undo the work of building young Muslim children. Creating a pious environment and ensuring that the child keeps good company are among the greatest reasons for the success of the educational process. On the other hand, placing the child in a sinful and corrupt environment will make them unable to cope with all these distractions, even if we work hard to provide comprehensive syllabuses.

Also, whatever their age group, the first goal of education must be instilling the Islamic creed in the minds of young generations, by teaching them the testimony of *tawhīd* (the Oneness of Allah) and the meanings of *īmān* and connecting these to the child's daily life and activities. The performance of certain rituals and acts of worship should also be accompanied by our making prayer and the Qur'an a guide for children in our homes. We must also hold the righteous predecessors of this nation in high esteem and connect our children to the noble Companions and our Divinely Chosen Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

It is not enough for us to talk to our children about politeness if we do not embody it in our daily speech. Therefore, it is important to get children used to kind words and good behavior. One of the most important objectives of education is also to enable children to rely on themselves and to encourage them to cooperate with others.

The best that we can offer our children at this age is to put the freshness of their minds to good use by teaching them the Qur'an. It is important that learning the Qur'an should be exciting and done at intervals. Children must feel that we revere this book with which Allah has honored us, so that their hearts are filled with love for the noble Qur'an.

Allah the Almighty said:

{يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ}

“O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones...”¹

‘Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) said: ‘Teach them [i.e. children] and discipline them.’

Al-Hasan (may Allah be pleased with him) said: ‘Command them to obey Allah and teach them goodness.’

¹ Sahih International Translation of the Noble Qur'an, verse 66:6.

Sufyān Ath-Thawri said: ‘A man should force his child to seek knowledge of the *ḥadīth*, for he is responsible for the child.’ He also said: ‘This (study of) *ḥadīth* is glory. Whoever learns it for the sake of worldly status gains it, and whoever learns it for the sake of the hereafter gains it.’

‘Abdullāh bin ‘Umar said: ‘Discipline your son, for you will be held accountable for how you disciplined him and what you taught him, and he will be held accountable for how good he was to you and how much he obeyed you.’

In the book *Tuhfat Al-Mawdūd bi Aḥkām Al-Mawlūd*, it is mentioned that: ‘What the child needs most is to care about his behavior, for he will grow up doing whatever the educator has accustomed him to from an early age. If he is used to venting his anger or spleen, being quarrelsome or impulsive, following his desires, or being reckless, sharp-tongued or greedy, it will be difficult for him to avoid being the same when he has grown up. These manners will become strongly embedded traits and dispositions within him. Even if he does his best to guard himself against them, one day they must surface and expose him. Thus, you find that most people are deviant in their manners, due to the way they were raised.

Therefore, when the child comes of age, he should be prevented from futile gatherings of entertainment and singing, as well as from hearing obscenities, *bida’* (religious innovations), and bad words; for if anything sticks in his mind, it will be difficult for him to part from it when he grows older, and his guardian will find it difficult to save him. Changing a person’s habits is one of the most difficult things to do, and whoever attempts it needs to renew their own disposition all over again. Departing from one’s nature is extremely difficult.’

There are many gems of advice in the words of the righteous predecessors and the leaders and scholars of *Ahl As-Sunnah Wal-Jamā’ah* (The People of Sunnah and Congregation). Every teacher who wishes to achieve excellence and bring about reform in their teaching methods, is recommended to benefit from these words and start applying them.

We also welcome all suggestions to develop our syllabuses further and serve the Islamic nation by providing the best education and the finest teaching.

In conclusion, the introductory level syllabus is the culmination of many voluntary efforts to provide educational material that is suitable for Muslim generations at a time when many families lack syllabuses that respond to the needs of this stage, especially in terms of giving our children a promising Islamic upbringing and with the rise in dangers that target the creed and religion of future generations through popular foreign educational syllabuses. We ask Allah the Almighty to help us guard this post and fulfil this trust. Whatever is correct and accurate is from Allah, and whatever is erroneous or lacking is from us and from Shaitan. We ask Allah to forgive us and to make our aim steadfast. All praise is for Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, and may peace and blessings be upon the noblest of all the messengers, our Prophet Muhammad, and on his family, companions, and all those who follow his *sunnah* and guidance until the Day of Judgement.

للعالمين 