

The Vision of the Educating in Christ (EIC) Approach

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1 *Helping Children to Fall in Love with God*

- ∞ God reveals Himself in a specific way.
- ∞ Children receive God's revelation in a specific way.
- ∞ The EIC approach brings the two together.

2 *Three Women Whose Discoveries Shape the EIC Approach*

- ∞ EIC is influenced by three women: Maria Montessori, Sofia Cavalletti, and Gianna Gobbi.
- ∞ Montessori's contribution was a deep insight into the nature and needs of the child.
- ∞ Cavalletti and Gobbi's contribution was a deep insight into the nature of the child's relationship with God.



3 *Who Was Maria Montessori?*

- ∞ Maria Montessori was the first female medical doctor in Italy, and she devoted her life to understanding the child.
- ∞ Key insights from Maria Montessori:
 - ◆ Children are "hard-wired to learn" (Gerard O'Shea).
 - ◆ Sensitive periods: At certain stages, children absorb certain things with greater ease.
 - ◆ Fine motor movement increases learning.
 - ◆ Children learn well when some freedom to choose is incorporated into the lesson.

4 *Sofia Cavalletti, Gianna Gobbi, and the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*

- ∞ Sofia Cavalletti was a Scripture scholar and Gianna Gobbi was a teacher who was trained in Montessori's methods.
- ∞ Together, they developed a form religious education that fit the child's developmental needs. This is called the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS), and it has three key elements:
 - ◆ The Bible
 - ◆ The Liturgy
 - ◆ Developmentally appropriate moral formation

5 *How EIC Came to Be*

- ∞ Once Gerard O'Shea discovered CGS, he wanted to share it with the children in his school.
- ∞ He needed to make some adaptations and received Sofia Cavalletti's blessing to do that, so long as he used a different name.
 - ◆ This is why the approach is called "Educating in Christ."



6 *EIC Adaptations for the School Setting*

- ∞ To make the riches of CGS more widely available, some adaptations were made:
 - ◆ A form of assessment that honors Montessori's educational principles.
 - ◆ More feast days in the curriculum.
 - ◆ Smaller materials that could be used outside of an atrium (dedicated space).
 - ◆ A formation process that fits teachers' needs.

“...let the children come to me,
and do not hinder them...”

Matthew 19:14

7 *How EIC Can Benefit Teachers and Parents*

- ∞ For teachers:
 - ◆ EIC frees teachers *from* much of the work of lesson planning and assessment.
 - ◆ EIC frees teachers *to* spend more time engaging one-on-one with children.
- ∞ For parents:
 - ◆ EIC offers parents a detailed curriculum for handing on the faith to their children.
 - ◆ EIC provides families with many opportunities for one-on-one time.
 - This strengthens bonds between parents and children and between siblings.

8 *Practical Details about the EIC Track*

- ∞ EIC formation includes:
 - ◆ Workshops to form you in the whole EIC approach: content and method.
 - ◆ Resources on the EIC website.
- ∞ The EIC website's resources provide everything you need to make EIC a reality in your classroom or home:
 - ◆ Lessons and demonstration videos for how to give the lessons.
 - ◆ Guide booklets for the lessons.
 - ◆ Links to the 3-Dimensional and 2-Dimensional materials needed for the lessons.
- ∞ While EIC draws on many influences, the primary model is Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher.