

Big Sister / Big Brother Program

A Chapter of Muslim Families Network Society

The Big Sister/Big Brother program (2006) has been developed so that children can experience the richness, excitement, and warmth of an Islamic environment, a place where children learn the importance of caring, sharing, tolerance, patience, and working with others.

In addition to arts and crafts, recreational and outdoor activities (including field trips), the program will offer Islamic activities based on weekly themes.

Each week of the program will include activities and learning based on the following curriculum.

This curriculum is broken down into three levels. Basic, Intermediate and advanced. The children will have to be assessed properly by the criteria set by the teachers for placement, insha Allah.

Level 1

1. **Tawheed:** Teach the kids a very basic understanding of tawheed.
 - a. **Allah is the Creator.** Ask the kids what does this mean to them. Discuss with them from resources how Allah is the Creator. Let them share their opinions and ideas of what they think. Prepare an art activity where the kids would have to make a drawing (without faces) or any other type of art project that they feel represents how Allah is the Creator. Next class has them discuss their projects (show and tell).
 - b. **Allah is the Controller.** Same format as above.
 - c. **Allah is the Provider.** Same format as above.

2. **Pillars:** Teach the kids the five pillars of Islam in simple terms.
 - a. **Shahadah.** What is it? Teach them to recite it and explain the meaning.
 - b. **Salah.** Teach them the form of salah in the simplest form with the small surahs and one or two duas.
 - c. **Fasting.** Teach them why we fast. Use art work for them to color or create in order for them to understand what fast means. Relate it to Ramadan.
 - d. **Zakat.** What does it mean? What is the reason behind it, Have a discussion about how they would feel about having to give charity. Ask them if they have ever given anything away for charity and how it made them feel or what was the reason behind giving the charity. Help them to feel positive and reinforce that behavior by praising them for what they did as well as allowing them to discuss their experiences.
 - e. **Hajj.** Ask them what Hajj means. Have a discussion about it and find out if anyone they know has done Hajj, Discuss a related story from the Quran about it.
 - f. 3. **The Prophet (sas):** Have a discussion with the group about whom they think he is and use that as a starting point to introduce him. Use

stories to relay the message about him. Go through a brief outline of his characteristics and for the following weeks focus on one characteristic at a time. Use art work to emphasize that characteristic about him. Example his kindness.

Note. All of these projects should be done with a lot of discussions and a lot of art work. Reinforce last lesson learned in the beginning of the next class before starting the new lesson, insha Allah.

Level 2

1. Tawheed : Teach this level of students about the Tawheed by breaking it down to the three types.
 - a. **Ar-Ruboobiyah** Define and translate it for them. Give them a general meaning and understanding to it with examples. Have them come up with a discussion about the examples for the following class.
 - b. **Al- Uloohiyah.** Define it and translate for them. Same as above.
 - c. **Al-Asma Was Siffat.** Same as above.

2. Pillars : Explain the five pillars. Ask them to give their understanding of what each pillar means. Reinforce their correct understanding of these pillars by having them do activities related to each pillar. Very important for them to understand that these pillars are an obligation on every Muslim to perform if they fit the conditions.(i.e. they have to have reached puberty and so forth,). But it is also important to realize that if they don't get into the habit of doing this and understanding the reason and background about it then when the obligation applies to them they would not be prepared.

3. The Prophet (sas): The students should have knowledge of who he is. This is the time to teach them the basic biography of the Prophet (sas). Give that very general outline of his parents and birth and where he was born. Who looked after him after his parents died? What kind of person was he and when did he attain prophet hood. What was his message and struggles he faced. Act. By the end of this topic the kids can all do an individual project related to how they feel about the Prophet (sass) being here with us, (If that were possible). They can write it, or discuss it or draw something about it. The point is they should have reached a point where they feel that they have some sort of relationship with him at whatever degree because they have learned about him at a personal level. insha Allah.

Level 3

1. Tawheed: Teach this topic to the students in a more depth way, they should already have the knowledge of the three levels of tawheed. Now we want to teach them the conditions of tawheed. What they are and what are the nullifiers. Ask them to use the Quran as a reference to find surahs or ayats that relate to tawheed. Break it up by each of the three levels of tawheed. If Possible, Let them have a discussion in class about how different religions and beliefs relating to tawheed. They can even finish this topic off by completing a comparative study on two religions. It doesn't have to be very deep, just something that they can understand. It doesn't have to be long. The purpose for this is so they can have a better understanding of tawheed

and understanding of other beliefs that are not accepted by Allah purely because it doesn't follow tawheed.

2. Pillars: The students should already know the 5 pillars. They should know the meaning and the requirements of those pillars. Now we want to teach them a more in depth understanding to what they already know. We can make 5 little groups and ask each group to explain for the rest of the groups their understanding of the pillar assigned to them with proof from the Quran and make them do an art project about their pillar. For example. The group doing Hajj. They have to give us a brief list of conditions for Hajj. Then they have to prove from the Quran where it talks about Hajj (This teaches them to use the Quran to find ayahs, and to rely on Allah's Word as proof that will be accepted not man's) And then have present their art project., insha Allah.

2. The Prophet: Teach the kids about hadith. Teach them the basic science of hadith. Teach them to memorize a number of hadith over the time of this topic is covered. But ask them to memorize something easy and something that they might already be practicing. Study major events in the life of the Prophet (sas). Maybe pick a number of battles or some major incidences like when the Prophet (sas) hid in the cave of Hira with Abu Bakr Siddique. At the end of this topic the kids can pick one of the major events they learned or already know about and relate it to the ayah or Surah that may have been revealed about It., insha Allah.

Note. Some of these ideas would require the teachers to do a little bit of homework on their part if they do not already know about it. It helps to go over resource materials ahead of time before presenting it and it is always beneficial to be flexible when required.

Program is scheduled for these Saturdays after half hour of Zuhr prayer

December 8, 15 (22 and 29 = no class)

January 5, 12, 19 and 26

February 2, 9, 16 and 23

March 1, 8, 15 and 29 (22 = no class)

April 5, 12, 19 and 26

May 3, 10 17, 24 and 31

June 7, 14 and 21 (Last day of the program)

