

Moral and Spiritual Education for the Next Generation



The Bahá'í writings attach great importance to the periods of childhood and youth, providing clear guidance to parents and communities to raise children in a nurturing and unambiguous environment.

Youth are encouraged to develop a strong sense of purpose, empowering their own transformation and leading them to contribute to the advancement of society. Young people's spiritual capacity, the basis for their own happiness and sense of well-being, is a powerful force for social change.

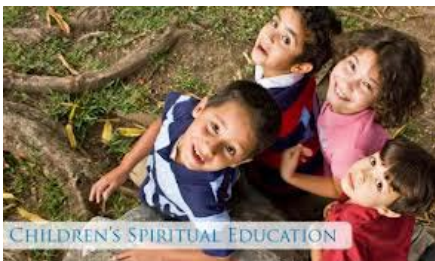
Bahá'ís believe that moral, spiritual, and values-based training for children and youth is essential in order to nurture these capacities.

Thus, Bahá'í communities sponsor moral education classes for children and youth of all backgrounds. The classes seek to develop essential virtues such as the knowledge of God, trustworthiness, honesty, and justice. They aim to build a strong moral framework that will assist children to achieve excellence in material, intellectual, and spiritual aspects of life.

“Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value,” wrote Bahá'u'lláh. “Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom.”

In accordance with that inspiration, Bahá'ís are working to bring forth these “treasures”— the nobility and beauty that are part of every person's inborn nature. The training they offer is a compelling response to the flood of messages that promote materialism and neglect the ideals of a healthy and prosperous society.

The classes, offered in increasing numbers by Bahá'í communities around the world, can help to ensure that our children grow strong intellectually, morally, and spiritually.



[Source: http://www.bahai.org/features/moral_ed]



“O God! Educate these children. These children are the plants of Thine orchard, the flowers of Thy meadow, the roses of Thy garden. Let Thy rain fall upon them; let the Sun of Reality shine upon them with Thy love. Let Thy breeze refresh them in order that they may be trained, grow and develop, and appear in the utmost beauty. Thou art the Giver. Thou art the Compassionate.” ~ ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, *Bahá'í Prayers*, p. 34

“O Thou kind Lord! These lovely children are the handiwork of the fingers of Thy might and the wondrous signs of Thy greatness. O God! Protect these children, graciously assist them to be educated and enable them to render service to the world of humanity. O God! These children are pearls, cause them to be nurtured within the shell of Thy loving-kindness.

“Thou art the Bountiful, the All-Loving.” ~ ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, *Bahá'í Prayers*, p. 34