



Catechist Observation Form

Catechist Certification Program

Office of Religious Formation Program - Diocese of El Paso

Candidates for certification are encouraged to read and become familiar with this form before observing a session conducted by an experienced catechist. This will allow for a better learning experience. It is strongly recommended that you spend some time with the experienced catechists after the session to share your observations, perceptions, and questions in order to gain as much as possible from this critical part of the practicum phase. Turn this form in to the Office of Religious Formation as you apply for certification.

Name of Catechist Observing _____

Name of Catechist being observed _____

Age/ grade level observed _____

Day/date/time of session _____ length of session _____

Text used/publisher _____

Atmosphere

The catechist welcomed learners

The catechist called each person by name

The space was free of unnecessary distractions

Yes	No	N/A

The catechist created an atmosphere that was (circle all that apply)

warm welcoming enthusiastic friendly formal informal Other _____

The catechist achieved this atmosphere through (circle all that apply)

Body language eye contact tone of voice room arrangement Other _____

The Catechist:

was warm had an approachable manner used a pleasant tone of voice appeared to be prepared
 helped create community an atmosphere of belonging was interesting/engaging

The room was

Comfortable Attractive Learner friendly Other _____

Comments _____

Prayer and Environment for Prayer

- The catechist prepared a prayer space
- The catechist used appropriate liturgical colors
- The catechist led the students in prayer
- The catechist encouraged students to pray in class
- The catechist used a variety of forms of prayer
- The catechist used age appropriate prayer forms of prayer
- The catechist used formal and Trinitarian prayers

Yes	No	N/A

The catechist prepared an environment for prayer through the use of (circle all that apply)
 A special prayer space liturgical color music symbol other _____

The catechist encouraged prayer through use of (circle all that apply)
 Formal prayer Trinitarian prayer spontaneous prayer a prayer service song
 gesture movement guided meditation silent reflection procession other_____

Comments _____

Integration of Scripture

- The bible was enthroned in the prayer space
- The catechist used the Scripture in prayer
- The students read from the Bible
- The catechist used the Scriptures within the session

Yes	No	N/A

The catechist integrated Scripture into the session by (circle all that apply)
 Enthroning the Bible using the Scriptures in prayer retelling Scripture story
 Video/DVD dramatic presentation other_____

Comments _____

Catechetical Method/Presentation

- The catechist introduced the theme of the session
- The catechist surfaced the experience of the learners
- The catechist presented material that was age-appropriate
- The catechist used a variety of methods to teach the session
- The catechist was enthusiastic and engaged the learners
- The catechist gave a clear presentation of church teaching
- The catechist encouraged the learners to respond to the material
- The catechist used activities that are related to the theme
- The catechist used technology related to the theme.

Yes	No	N/A

The catechist presented the theme of the session using (circle all that apply)

story poster banner audio-visual lecture song other_____

The catechist surfaced the life experience of the learners through (circle all that apply)

Question story audio-visuals lecture discussion other_____

The catechist developed the theme during the session using (circle all that apply)

Bible story textbook lecture audio-visuals story music discussion
 Reading individual activity group activity memorization creative writing
 Question/answer drama debate clear presentation of Church teaching Other_____

Comments _____

Integration/Response

- The catechist allowed time for reflection
- The catechist encouraged response to the lesson
- The catechist assessed what students learned

Yes	No	N/A

The catechist encouraged response to the session through (circle all that apply)

Prayer mediation creative writing service project song
 faith-sharing groups liturgical celebration gesture movement Other_____

The catechist assessed what the students learned through (circle all that apply)

activity/assessment Question and answer large group discussion writing

Comments _____

Management

- The catechist was organized and ready to present material
- The catechist maintained a sense of order
- The catechist demonstrated control of the class
- The catechist dealt with discipline problems as they occurred
- The catechist fostered a sense of respect among the learners

Yes	No	N/A

The catechist demonstrated skill in managing the catechetical session by (circle all that apply)

Being organized engaging learners in the session handling discipline issues as they occurred
fostering a sense of respect maintaining a sense of order other _____

Comments

Strengths of this Catechetical session

Ways this session could be improved
