

SPIRITISM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

"It is through education rather than instruction that the world will be transformed." ALLAN KARDEC

Childhood

The child who we receive in our arms today is the spirit who reincarnates on Earth for a new evolutionary step. This child brings with him/her an immense baggage of his/her millennial past¹.



All children are an incarnated spirit. Childhood is a necessity. It's a time of repose for the spirit. A spirit reincarnates to progress and to contribute to the general work in God's creation.²



Reincarnation is a process that begins at conception, when its educational process shall also begin. According to Pestalozzi, from conception to the age of 7 the spirit is still adapting to its new body.

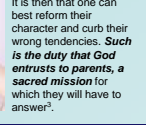
The fragility of the body inspires our love. Such love would be weakened if faced with a bad-tempered character. The bad tendencies being dormant facilitates the educational process.³



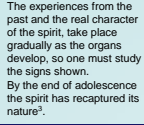
A spirit incarnates in order to perfect itself, and it is more accessible during childhood to the impressions it receives, and which may assist in its progress.²



It is then that one can best reform their character and curb their wrong tendencies. **Such is the duty that God entrusts to parents, a sacred mission** for which they will have to answer.⁴



The experiences from the past and the real character of the spirit, take place gradually as the organs develop, so one must study the signs shown. By the end of adolescence the spirit has recaptured its nature.⁵



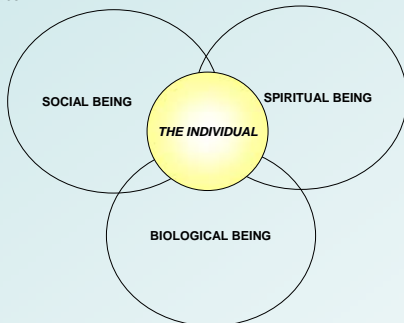
Each spirit builds itself with the experiences lived throughout the millennia. Whatever its present situation may be, this spirit brings, deep within itself, **THE GERM OF PERFECTION**, because it is a child of God.

Here lies the objective of education in its true meaning: To aid the spirit to develop its inner potential, its dormant faculties, in one word: **THE GERM OF PERFECTION**.¹

Threefold Constitution of Children

To better understand children's educational needs, Spiritism explains their threefold constitution¹:

- **Spiritual:** Children bring formed personalities from past experiences with unique characteristics, which lie dormant during infancy.
- **Social:** Children have a new personality in development, which will be formed and influenced by the environment, education, and all stimuli in the present existence.
- **Biological:** Children are also representatives of the human species and must necessarily obey to certain instinctive patterns of development, which are common to the species.



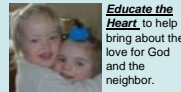
The understanding of this interaction should lead us to a revolution in the way we see child development. The greatest educators of the 18th century, among them Rousseau and Pestalozzi, stated that children develop themselves by responding to an inner impulse (the germ of perfection), while being also influenced by the social and biological conditions.⁴

Spiritist Education

Integral Education

Integral education must encompass feelings, intelligence, and the application of what is learned, in order to awake all the powers of the soul in a balanced and integrated way.

Spiritist Educational Triad (based on Pestalozzi's idea)



Educate the Heart to help bring about the love for God and the neighbor.



Educate the Head to develop the intelligence, how to observe, to analyze, to deduce and to think. Consequently learning how to tell good from bad.



Educate the Hands to stimulate manual activities and work in general, as much to cultivate agility, health and harmony of the body.

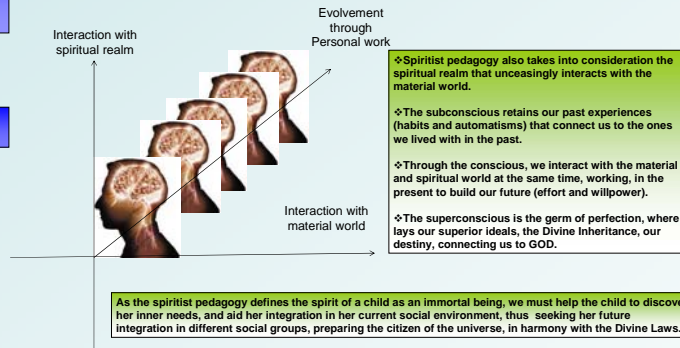
HEART

INTEGRAL EDUCATION

HEAD

HANDS

Spiritist Pedagogy¹



Goals of Spiritism for children and youth

- Understand God as the all-loving Creator;
- Understand our threefold nature: physical body, spiritual body (perispirit), and Spirit;
- Understand the value of prayer and make it a habit;
- Understand the relationship between the material and spiritual worlds;
- Better understand Jesus' teachings and practice them in daily life;
- Understand the death as a normal process of evolution.



When a body is produced the soul which incarnates in it has come from space in order to progress. So acquaint yourselves with your duty and then put all your love into bringing this soul nearer to God. This is the mission with which you have been entrusted and for which you will receive just reward if you fulfill your trust faithfully. The care and education given by you to this child will help in its improvement and future well-being.⁵

Educational Environments

Education is every influence exerted by one person onto another, in a way to stimulate an evolutionary process. It may occur in any relationship. Every time a human being awakens a good feeling in another one, that becomes an educational action.⁴

HOME



HOME IS OUR FIRST SCHOOL

In the modest or wealthy home, the soul of a child receives her first lessons of sensibility and affection, the first manifestations of nobility and understanding.⁶

SCHOOL

To achieve its goal, schools must provide integral education. They have to educate, not only instruct. Schools have to be beautiful, exciting and enjoyable places, where students work, interact, and discuss. There, they exercise their freedom in a constructive way, while being stimulated by creative and enthusiastic teachers.



SPIRITIST CENTER



The spiritist center plays the role of sublime school that enlighten the mind and the heart. This is the place where we learn Jesus' teachings revisited by Spiritism in its three aspects: scientific, philosophical and religious, while focusing on its application in our daily lives.

True love is always educational and the true education is always an act of love. The relationship between love and education is intrinsic, inseparable.

Visionary Education

The current educational model with its short-term view of life, with emphasis in the wild competition and the insane search for success and social approval, drives humanity to the paradox of great material comfort and great moral and spiritual discomfort. While technology surprises each day, social inequalities increase, generating anxiety, violence, depression, fear, insecurity, aggressiveness, etc. This leads individuals to having and accumulating in detriment to the values of being, sharing and feeling.



With its visionary view of life, Spiritism brings a different educational proposal that fosters our self-improvement and long-term goals for immortal life. Therefore, it aims at the perpetual being and not simply the secular being. Studying its origin, nature and destiny, it guides humanity to the age of regeneration in which we are already entering.



References:

1. Education of the Spirit, Walter O. Alves.
2. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, O/A 382.
3. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, O/A 385.
4. Education According to Spiritism, Dora Incantri.
5. The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, chapter 14, Item 9.
6. Emmanuel