

The Trivium: Stages of Child Development and Corresponding Teaching Methods & Curriculum

BEGINNING GRAMMAR	GRAMMAR	LOGIC	RHETORIC
Grades K-2	Grades 3-6	Grades 7-9	Grades 10-12
Approx. ages 4-7	Approx. ages 8-12	Approx. ages 12-15	Approx. ages 15-18
<i>Student Characteristics</i>	<i>Student Characteristics</i>	<i>Student Characteristics</i>	<i>Student Characteristics</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excited about school, learning • Enjoys games, stories, songs, projects • Wants to touch, taste, feel, smell, see, etc. • Short attention span • Imaginative, creative • Likes to copy, imitate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excited about new, interesting facts • Likes to explain, figure out, talk • Wants to relate own experiences to topic, tell own story • Likes collections, organizing items • Likes chants, songs, especially clever and repetitive ones • Easily memorizes • Can assimilate another language well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still excitable, but needs challenges • Judges, critiques, debates • Likes to organize items, others • Shows off knowledge • Wants to know the “why” of facts • Thinks, acts as though more knowledgeable than adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned with present events, especially in own life • Interested in justice, fairness • Moving toward special interest • Can take on responsibility, independent work • Desires to express own ideas, feelings • Generally idealistic
<i>Teaching Methods</i>	<i>Teaching Methods</i>	<i>Teaching Methods</i>	<i>Teaching Methods</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tactile items as learning aids • Sing, play games, chant, recite, color, draw, paint, build • Use body movements • Short, creative projects • Guide discovering process, explore, find things • Show and Tell, hear-read-tell stories • Reinforce conceptual understanding of letters, numbers and associated meanings • Provide copying and imitating opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of sensory work and projects • Make collections, displays, models • Teach and assign simple research projects • Recitations, memorization, sound-offs, drama • Chants and songs filled with facts • Drills, games, songs for most subjects • Formal Latin curriculum • Short oral/written presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debates, persuasive reports • Formal logic curriculum • Timelines, charts, maps • Drama, re-enactments, role playing • Evaluate, critique, with guidelines • Research projects with tools • Oral/written presentations • Guest speakers, trips • Collaborative work in groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal apologetics curriculum • World view discussions, written papers • Drama, oral presentations, poetry • Research, integration of disciplines, synthesis of ideas • Classic literature, history, speeches, and debates • Give responsibilities of working with younger students, organizing events, activities • In-depth field trips • Construction and public defense of thesis