

A General Daily Schedule for FLDS Children 1st - 3rd Grades

This is a general outline of activities that the FLDS school children, 1st through 3rd grades are accustomed to doing each day. Of course, as mothers and caretakers we are sensitive to the individual needs of each child. When there is sickness, an appointment, etc., we adapt the schedule to fit the needs. Because our children have been protected from the great evils of the world and are taught to be busy and industrious, they act mature for their age. School age children are capable of taking on more responsibilities, and as children are, they are anxious to grow up and be like the “big guys”.

5:00 am Early Morning Duties: Children arise early, say private prayers, dress, comb hair, make beds, etc. Sisters give sisters hugs, brothers give brothers a handshake, and all say “Good Morning”.

5:30 am Early Bird’s Extras: The children who are quicker at getting ready are able to help younger brothers and sisters get dressed and combed, or help prepare the morning meal. Many read their personal religious books, or finish up any homework they may have.

6:00 am Family Prayer Time: Mothers, caretakers, and children gather to sing, pray, and read a sermon of President Leroy S. Johnson. Older children are encouraged to sit properly and quietly, and to be good examples to younger children. The class lasts 15-30 minutes.

6:30 am Breakfast Time: School age children have more responsibilities, so they are grateful that mothers and caretakers have breakfast ready on time. Flaky oatmeal mush seems to be a favorite among most of the children. For those who wouldn’t care for oatmeal, there is a variety of other breakfast foods served. School age children are able to dish themselves, and are encouraged to have proper manners. If children do not choose to behave, mothers and caretakers smile and work with the child, reason and invite. Usually a child will respond with just a little reasoning, because they trust their mothers. The mothers strive hard to keep that trust with the child by telling only the truth and showing by example what the children should do.

7:00 am Clean Up / Get Ready for School: The children are full of energy and ready to skippity-hop to school. They quickly help with breakfast dishes and gather up their homework. Mothers help tie shoes, zip coats, find clip cases, and walk or ride with the children to school. Children are anxious to please their parents and teachers because parents and teachers are cheerful and greet the children with smiles.

7:30 am Morning Class: Children who are in 1st through 3rd grades usually sit in their classrooms and listen to the Morning Class, which is a religious training. The training begins with song and prayer, then the principal of the school speaks, or calls on others to bear testimony. The children hear the truths written in the Bible and Book of Mormon. They are taught to be kind to one another, to honor their parents, and to live by every word of God. Primary grade children color and write during Morning Class. At least twice a week, students groups perform songs or readings at Morning Class. When one class is performing, the other classes enjoy going into the meeting room and watching. Children learn so much from example.

8:30 am – 12:00 pm Basic School Outline: Morning Class is one hour at the longest. The children then go outside where they can run around for a few minutes. Teachers and assistants coordinate so that there is always at least one teacher with the children. The children are gently

guided to love one another and be kind. Teachers show the children that they will not be disturbed even if children disobey, and this gains the children's respect. At times there are children who will not respond to the gentle words of the teacher, and when this happens the teacher communicates with the parents. If disobedience continues, parents school their children at home until the children desire to come to school again. Children show that they want to come to school by their good conduct at home. When the children show they desire to come back to school, parents and teachers work together and the children return.

Subjects taught in the school include English, math, spelling, history, reading, writing, phonics, crafts, sewing, singing, horticulture, etc. Teachers and parents have worked hard to put together a curriculum that will meet the standards of our religion. The teachers do all they can to help each student succeed. Children grow fond of the teachers and teachers adore the children. Children are the work and mission of the parents and teachers. One of the greatest successes for the children is that their teachers and parents work together, and everyone enjoys it!

11:45 am Lunch Time / Family Time: School children are let out of school at 11:45 in the morning so that they can make it to their homes for lunch prayer. It is very important that the families have their family times together. Preschoolers wait by the windows to watch older brothers and sister come skipping home for lunch. "What did you do in school this morning?" younger brothers and sisters ask. School children rattle off the exciting things their class has been doing, while they quickly gobble down their lunch. Mothers stand by and smile, happy that their children enjoy life and pray to be good mothers to them always. Little brothers and sisters think the world of the older ones.

12:45 – 2:45 pm Back to School: "Mother, please walk with me to school before I'm late. I want to go early before my teacher gets there so I can surprise her." This is commonly heard in the homes of the FLDS. It is true, FLDS children are not perfect, yet they are teachable, and mothers delight in the privilege to raise up their children in light and truth.

The different grades have a daily planner, and seek to cover all the areas required to be a good school. Teachers grade students according to the children's individual needs and abilities. Students in 1st through 3rd grades are given recess times and often extra outside time, because they are full of energy. Instead of just playing with toys, or spending time on the streets, the children are taught to use their time wisely. Weeding the garden, cracking nuts, reading true stories, feeding the chickens, visiting the grandmothers, helping with community projects, etc., are some of the things the children do during their recess times. Jump ropes, balls, bean bags, etc., are used to help children improve their coordination skills.

2:45 – 4:00 pm Home and Homework: Mothers at home make sure there is a snack for the school children. Mothers chat with their children about the daily happenings, and children confide in their mothers the successes and challenges they have. Mothers listen with understanding hearts, and turn the children to prayer and obedience to the laws of God.

After a snack and smiles from mother, school age children attack their homework with youthful vigor. When math problems get tough and English starts to seem long, mothers are right there to encourage and prompt. Gentle teasing and helpful hints make homework time a special time for the children. Children are required to be prepared for the next school day by getting their homework done. If they are sick or have a dentist appointment, etc., the parents work with the teachers and

more time is given. No one is forced, just encouraged and helped along in the right.

4:00 – 5:00 pm Something to Bless Others: Depending on the age group and the homework load, the children are encouraged to help out with the housework and family duties. Homework is the priority, then the children can do something to bless others and help the family.

5:00 pm Dinner Time: Keeping the children well fed and properly fed is important to mothers, who desire their children to grow up strong and healthy. The children have a well balanced diet of fruits, vegetables, whole-wheat bread, milk, eggs, meat, grains, etc. Some children have special needs and it is a joy to the mothers to meet the children's needs. Of course, children have their ice cream, popcorn, cake, and desserts. The children are taught the word of wisdom as revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith, which is "moderation in all things."

5:30 pm Singing: As children reach school age, they are capable of taking on more responsibilities. They are expected to help with family clean up, get their homework done, and also learn other arts and talents such as singing, sewing, cooking, violin, piano, flute, etc. An organized singing time for the different age groups is very important in the home. The singing sessions are not long or drawn out, but of shorter length and are a happy family time. The children do not enjoy jazz or rock music. They would much rather sing the hymns, or children's songs that are lively, yet sincere.

6:00 pm Stories and Family Training: One of the great successes of the saints in ancient times was they remembered what their forefathers went through. The stories in the Bible and Book of Mormon show that people who were grateful for what their forefathers went through were the most righteous, and had great faith. We tell our children the stories of the ancient-day prophets, and modern-day prophets, so that the children will grow up respecting and honoring what our forefathers have done for us. Our Lord and Savior, Joseph in Egypt, the Apostle Paul, Joseph Smith, John Taylor, etc., are well-known characters in the children's minds. The children enjoy these stories, because the mothers tie it in with everyday living, showing the children that we can also grow to be good, faithful saints like those who have gone before. Our children are not told fables, fairy tales, or other untrue stories. Mothers read the Bible and Book of Mormon stories, then simplify it so the children can understand.

School age children are also given more detailed training on our religious beliefs. They are taught scripture memorizations and read Church literature. Any extra time between these organized classes is used to finish up homework, help watch the baby, make a treat for someone special, write a letter, personal projects, etc.

7:00 pm Family Prayer Time: Children gather with the family to join in song and prayer before retiring. Saying "good-night" to grandmothers, mothers, brothers and sisters is a delightful time for the children. Then they are given a snack, take their vitamins, brush teeth, get ready for bed, say private prayers and get into bed. They seldom have bad or frightful dreams, just sweet dreams of a happy family living together.