

SPIRIT PLAY

- Present core stories of our faith and your particular church and its theology
- Help children to make meaning through wondering and art
- Create a spiritual community of children
- Support multiple learning styles and challenges

Spirit Play Content: Lessons and Stories

Unitarian Universalist
Focus Shelves
Promise Stories
Sources Stories
Stories of the Mystery
Beginnings and Endings
Sacred Places
Ways to Pray
Liturgical Lessons



“This program tends to engage children where they are and helps them live into their own answers to the abiding questions. The environment, the multisensory approach, the wondering questions, the learning centers, the stories, and the community of children and teachers (and parents) are absolutely appropriate for UU children and RE Programs.”

Rev. Pat Hoertdoerfer, MRE



Spirit Play

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SPIRIT PLAY

Unitarian Universalist
Religious Education
Program



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Key elements from Montessori: teachers guiding children in a prepared environment.

Key elements from Godly Play: circle with story told using concrete materials followed by wondering and art response; the morning as worship.

Proven educational method whose values support Unitarian Universalism

- Encourages independent thinking through wondering questions
- Gives children real choices within the structure of the morning
- Creates community of children in classroom of mixed ages
- Develops an underlying sense of the spiritual and the mystery of life
- Supports congregational polity through choice of lessons
- Volunteers were found to value the program as part of their own spiritual process

Tested in classrooms Preschool through Grade 4.

The Purpose of Religious Education

The co-developers (Dr. Nita Penfold, Rev. Ralph Roberts, and Beverly Leute Bruce) see this purpose as helping children to find the religious language and story to live into their own answers to existential questions such as
Who am I?
Where did I come from?
What is my purpose?
What are my gifts?
How do I choose to live my life
What happens when I die?
Why am I lonely and sad sometimes?



We want to help children make meaning of their lives through the container of Unitarian Universalism.

Spirit Play Start-Up

1. The best way to begin is to read Jerome Berryman's work, especially "Teaching Godly Play: The Sunday Morning Handbook." Then go to visit a Godly Play or Spirit Play classroom. The following churches have been using the Spirit Play method over several years: First Parish in Milton, Milton MA; Winchester Unitarian Society, Winchester MA; Unitarian Universalist Society: East, Manchester CT; First Church Unitarian, Littleton MA; First Congregational Parish in Kingston, Kingston MA; Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester, Manchester NH; Hope Unitarian, Tulsa OK; First Unitarian Universalist, New Orleans

2. Then send someone from your church to a training. For information on trainings in your area, check the website below or call Nita Penfold. Entire curriculum is only available with training.



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