



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

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Issue 95



An easy to use plan for a Children's Meeting about Advice & query 1:19

Make sure you have a little time of worship for yourself and other volunteers before the session – even a couple of minutes are good.

This outline is based on a 45 minutes children's meeting. Have a copy of "Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present" by Charlotte Zolotow, pictures by Maurice Sendak - Puffin Books - ISBN D-14-050-037-5. Available from the Quaker Bookshop www.quaker.org.uk/shop 0207 663 1030 or online

Set out the room as suggested in the Gather section of this Journeys in the Spirit.

Resources for this session: enough copies of the hexagon template from Additional resources 95.C for each child to have two each; pencils; oil pastels; wax crayons; felt tip pens; writing pens and other creative materials available for decorating the hexagon.

Gather

After settling with a minute or two of quiet ask everyone to go round and say their name, especially if people do not know each other. Continue with the Gathering exercise on page one of Journeys in the Spirit. **10 minutes**

Engage

Gifts can be presents that we give to one another at special times but we all have gifts that we can share at anytime. Let the children think about what they are good at like sport, music, art etc but also help them to think about other gifts that are less obvious such as helping someone, being a friend, listening to someone, helping at home or recognising when someone is sad or in difficulties and responding to that. Being able to explain to someone how to do something. You and the children will think of others. It is important to "recognise the gifts we bring". Knowing what we are good at or like doing helps us feel good about ourselves. It is also important that we know what each other's gifts are. Read the story of "Mr Rabbit and the lovely present". **15 minutes**

Respond: See the resource list at the start of this sheet. Give each child two hexagons, and ask them to draw or write something about their gifts on one hexagon. On the second hexagon ask them to write or draw something about the gifts of somebody else in the group – child or adult. Be mindful of anybody who might be left out and have hexagons ready to write on yourself. While doing the activity talk about how to get the adults in meeting to contribute to this patchwork. Create the patchwork by sticking all the hexagons together on a large sheet. Children can then look at what has been written or drawn. **15 minutes**

Reflect: Consider all the wonderful "gifts" among the group. Imagine how many more gifts if everyone in meeting contributed to the patchwork. Decide on how you will go forward with this activity. Children may want to take their patchwork into adult meeting and explain what they have been doing and what they want people in meeting to do. There is no time like the present to act! Remember to have spare hexagons and some pens and crayons for adults to make their hexagon. Finish with some quiet. **5 minutes**

