

# Welcome to our Spirit Play Classroom

This special space is where your child will listen to and wonder about stories on Unitarian Universalism, our [principles](#) and sources, beginnings and endings, sacred places, heroes and heroines, world religions and more.

Our Spirit Play teachers have been trained to teach this curriculum and to create an environment that will foster community, encourage wonder, and support your child's exploration of the world and his/her place within it.

We recognize that parents are the primary religious educators of their children. Our hope is to support the conversations which you have at home with stories and wisdom tales on Sunday.

The classroom is supplied with age appropriate picture books, art materials, items from nature, and story kits hand-made by members of our congregation.

## Role of the parents:

- Please bring your child to the classroom at the end of "Story Time" in Sunderland Hall. Our classroom greeter will welcome you and your child individually. If it would help your child to feel more comfortable on their first few times with us, you are welcome to stay near-by in the classroom.
- Immediately after Sunday service, please come to pick up your child. If the class has not yet ended, please wait with other parents at the door as each child is dismissed individually.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Angela Klassen  
Director of Lifespan Religious Education  
416.924.9654 ext 223  
[angela@firstunitariantoronto.org](mailto:angela@firstunitariantoronto.org)

# First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto

## Spirit Play



*An exciting learning experience for our  
youngest children*

Developed by UU Religious Educator  
Nita Penfold, D. Min., Spirit Play is  
based on the work of Maria  
Montessori and  
Jerome Berryman

## What is Spirit Play?

Developed by UU Religious Educator Nita Penfold, D. Min., Spirit Play is based on the work of Maria Montessori and Jerome Berryman

Weekly lessons are introduced through the telling of a story, and the story's meaning is explored through the story teller asking questions which begin "I wonder".

Children are encouraged to respond to the story through art and other classroom activities. Children choose their own methods and work at their own pace.

This approach encourages independent thinking, values different learning styles, gives children choices, creates community, develops a sense of the spiritual, and explores the Unitarian Universalist identity.

Emphasis is placed on creating a peaceful, relaxed and ordered environment. In this place, we have all the time we need and all the tools we need, to learn and explore.

## A Sampler of Our Handmade Story Baskets



*Blind Men & the Elephant*



*Everyone is Welcome Here*



*Love and Service*

## Spirit Play Stories

Our story baskets have been developed from sources such as children's literature, myths from long ago and many lands, and the wisdom texts of the world's religions. They are loosely divided into the following categories:

UU Principles and Sources

UU Figures and History

UU Liturgical Year

Beginnings and Endings

Heroes and Heroines

Wonder and Awe

Earth Centred and Science

World Religions

Some story titles which you may recognize:

The Extra Thankful Thanksgiving

The Good Samaritan

One Great Web of Life

The Carrot Seed

Hannukah Lights, Hannukah Nights

Stone Soup

The Mouse at the Seashore