



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

March 2018

Issue 114



An easy-to-use plan for a Children's Meeting

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 for worship

Materials: A copy of Ali's story by Salvador Maldonado available from the Quaker Bookshop

Tel: 020 7663 1030 <http://bookshop.quaker.org.uk> or internet access to watch it :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_lvvG6_rNs

Gather: Prepare the room by setting out the chairs or cushions in a circle to start with and have any resources you need for the activities you chosen.

Place some images on the floor in the centre of the circle of soldiers, war and the effects of war (*Additional Resource 114A – see sidebar of main issue*).

Begin by everyone saying their names, especially if there are people in the group who do not know each other. Ask everyone to say their name and their favourite game.

Have a few minutes of quiet while everyone looks at the images displayed. Ask the children the following questions: 'what do you think the person in the picture wants?' 'If you asked this person why they're doing that, what do you think they would say?' 'What might the story of this person be?'

10 minutes



Photo by [Joe deSousa](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Engage:

Developing understanding

Explain that today you are going to think about the importance of peace and the effects of war. Peace comes from within and from our Quaker belief that “there is that of God within everyone”. It is important that children understand the reality of what the military in Britain is doing but more importantly that there is an alternative. Quakers have a strong testimony to Peace and understanding the true worth of working for peace, and recognising a common humanity.

Talk with the children about how we believe that war is wrong and never achieves anything. So perhaps we need to understand a little more of what we mean when we talk about the military. The military includes the Army, Navy and the Air Force.

Explain that the children may hear some words to do with the military that need some explanation:

- Militarism – this means that a country wants to have an army, navy & air force to fight other countries and nations.
- Militarisation – this means how a country goes about making sure they have enough people in the army, navy and air force to do the fighting. And they do this by recruiting young men and women who are fit and able to fight. Now ask the children if they have ever seen people from the armed forces in uniform. If so where was this? What were they doing?

Think about how militarisation might seep into everyday life – maybe toys and games? If you are able, to watch a short video (*see sidebar of main issue p.2*) and talk about it with the children.

A game - Spectrum

Indicate to the group an imaginary line across the room. At one end is “I completely agree” and at the other end “I completely disagree”. In the middle “I’m not sure”. Read the statements below and ask the children to stand on the part of the imaginary line that matches how they feel about the statement.

- The main reason that the military run fun activities for children is to recruit young people (get them to join).
- These activities are mainly aimed at boys
- The military should not be allowed to run activities for under 16 year olds
- Schools should not allow red or white poppies to be worn around Remembrance Day (November 11th)
- Military toys, such as soldier figures and replica guns should not be allowed

15 minutes

Respond:

Ali’s story

We are going to listen to a true story about the effects of war – it is ‘Ali’s story’. Read or watch the story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwUGSYDKUxU>

Talk about the story. Wonder how it must feel for Ali? If Ali were in their school – how might they have reacted to him? What could be done to help Ali? Maybe there is some practical help such as helping him to learn English or ensuring he feels included at school, in the classroom and at playtime.

15 minutes

Reflect: At the end of the session have some time for the children to ask any questions. There may be issues that have arisen as a result of the subject and children need clarification if there are things they have not understood.

5 minutes