

Quaker Life



Children and Young People's Work

Quaker Faith and Practice Advices & Queries say:

Rejoice in the presence of children and young people in your Meeting and recognise the gifts they bring.

Remember that the meeting as a whole shares a responsibility for every child in its care.

Seek for them as for yourself a full development of God's gifts and the abundant life Jesus tells us can be ours.

How do you share your deepest beliefs with them, while leaving them free to develop as the spirit of God may lead them?

Do you invite them to share their insights with you?

Are you ready both to learn from them and to accept your responsibilities towards them?

Resources

There are resources to support meetings with children and young people's work. Every month we produce and circulate 'Journeys in the Spirit' children's work edition and three times a year 'Journeys in the Spirit' youth work edition – both are free to subscribers. These offer fully worked out, yet adaptable, programmes for children and young people's meetings and activities. Other publications include:

- 'What about the Children in our meeting' – a resource for reviewing and exploring the purposes of Quaker children's work.
- 'Spiritual development' – what is it and how to encourage it in partnership with young people.
- 'Only Quaker' – what is it like to be the only Quaker at school or in your friendship group? New edition available from September 2008.
- 'Youth Work handbook'. New edition available from November 2008.

Training

There is a variety of opportunities for training for children and young people's work. We offer:

- Workshops that cover a wide range of topics.
- Training sessions for those co-ordinating youth events.
- The Peer Pathways weekend and award for young people who are involved as facilitators.
- Bespoke training days designed for a meetings particular needs.
- Occasional weekend conferences jointly organised with Woodbrooke to explore a youth or children's work issue in more depth.

Some free resources to support children and young people's work available from the CYP Team:

Journeys in the Spirit inward outward upward downward

'Journeys in the Spirit' offers resources and ideas to Quakers engaging with children or young people. The children's work edition is published each month and the youth work edition comes out three times a year. Available on free subscription by email or post from the address overleaf.

Spiritual Development

A first step for youth workers and young people

John Lee



What about the children in our Meeting?

Exploring the purposes of Quaker children's work



May 2008

Events

The Children and Young People's staff work with volunteers to provide events for children and young people, including Junior Yearly Meeting and the Under 19s Programme at Britain Yearly Meeting and Yearly Meeting Gatherings. These events enable children and young people to come together as a worshipping community and provide opportunities for spiritual development, supporting young Friends in their religious lives and spiritual journeys.

The events have a significant place in the lives of young Friends, providing opportunities for personal growth and strengthening participants' identities as individuals and young Quakers in a safe and supportive environment.

Participants explore issues of relevance to them and issues of concern to Friends in Britain Yearly Meeting in a variety of ways and children and young people are helped to understand, experience and participate in Quaker processes and structures. Young people are involved as part of the teams planning, organising and facilitating events, and staff and volunteers work to support young people and enable their participation.

Support

The Area Meeting Children and Young People's Work Advocates network provides local support to those working with children and young people in their area. Advocates are appointed by their Area Meeting. Their role in the Area meeting includes: advocating the need for children and young people's work; encouraging awareness and support of the needs of children and young people; developing networks between neighbouring Area meetings and in the areas covered by general meetings.

The staff team works in partnership with the Leavers to deliver the annual Quaker Youth Work Conference. This provides a forum for those involved in organising events for young Quakers to learn from one another through discussion about issues that are raised in focused sessions and informal conversations. The conference provides an opportunity for those attending to explore together how common issues are handled.

The Quaker Youth Recognition Scheme is a mentoring scheme developed to ensure that peer facilitators receive a level of support equal to their role - space and time to reflect and learn from the experience of others. At the end of the event, peer facilitators receive a record of their skills, achievements and areas for development.



Quaker Life works with Friends in their meetings and with other local and national committees to help deepen experience of God's grace and its consequent expression in all our lives and in our meetings. It seeks to nurture the worshipping community of Britain Yearly Meeting, developing it into an inclusive community.

Quaker faith & practice 8.08

www.quaker.org.uk/cyp

The children and young people's work pages of the Britain Yearly Meeting website include links to:

- **A monthly newsletter**
- **Junior Yearly Meeting**
- **Opportunities for young people**
- **Training opportunities** for meetings and groups
- **Policies and procedures** for children and young people's work
- **Staff team** information
- **Resources Room** – books and packs to borrow
- **Children and Young People's Work Advocates**
- **Resources** - including Journeys in the Spirit archive
- **yqspace** – for information about future young Quaker events, news from previous events and other links

www.yqspace.org.uk
a website for young Quakers

Contact:

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