

South Seattle Friends Meeting Children's Programs

Childcare (infants – kindergarten age)

- For children not yet ready for a structured classroom environment
- Supervised by one or more adult volunteers and one or more teenage helpers
- Activities include story time, drawing, playing with toys, brief circle time
- Occasional introduction to religious themes via songs and stories
- Focused on building friendships and a loving community with other children and adult/teen caregivers.

First Day School (elementary-school age)

- Grade-school-aged and older are welcome
- Instruction in basic Quaker values and theology by a dedicated teacher and one or more adult volunteers
- Welcoming space for kids to develop and explore their own spirituality, while learning about traditions and values from Quakerism's Judeo-Christian history and those of other faith traditions
- Activities include group discussion, writing/drawing on a given theme, art projects, community involvement.

**During the summer, the children's programs are merged into a single supervised free-play time.*

Central Friends (5th–8th grade)

Learn about and engage in Quaker worship and process: worship sharing, clearness processes, business meetings, fun activities.

Junior Friends (high-school age)

Meet once a month with peers from other Meetings in our area for discussion, service, fun.

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We welcome children in the life of our Meeting, and we offer age-appropriate activities for children during our weekly Meeting for Worship (see other side for descriptions).

Our children's programs include Quaker religious education. While Quakerism grew out of the Protestant Christian tradition and is still influenced by that history, there is a wide range of beliefs within our faith. Some Quakers identify as Christian, and some do not. Our religious-education programs reflect that diversity of beliefs while sharing stories from our history.

The Religious Society of Friends is not a creed-based religion. We believe that there is that of God in every person, and that through silent worship in community each person will develop and grow his or her own spirituality. Our children's programs very much reflect these values.

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