

# 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 & endings, sacred places, heroes & heroines, world religions, and more.

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.

The classroom is supplied with books, art materials, and story kits hand-made by the Spirit Play Team.

We hope you like what you see!

## Role of the parent:

- Drop your child off Sunday morning ON TIME so that there are no interruptions once class has begun
- Wait patiently at the classroom door as each child is dismissed individually

Please contact the Spirit Play Team  
with questions or concerns:

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# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WORCESTER

## SPIRIT PLAY

An exciting learning experience for our  
youngest children



Developed by UU Religious Educator Anita  
Penfold, based on the work of Maria Montessori  
& Jerome Berryman

## What is SPIRIT PLAY?

The Spirit Play curriculum integrates structured storytelling into a Montessori classroom setting.

Weekly lessons are introduced through the telling of a story, and the story's meaning is explored through wondering questions.

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 in a mixed-age setting, 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.

## Spirit Play Stories

Stories have been developed from children's literature, myths, and religious history. They are loosely divided into the following categories:

UU Promises & Sources

UU Figures & History

UU Liturgical Lessons

Beginnings & Endings

Heroes & Heroines

Wonder & Awe

Earth-Centered & Science

World Religions

Our UUCW History

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# Our Unitarian Universalist Promises

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Respect all people

Offer fair and kind treatment to all

Year to accept and learn about ourselves,  
others, and the Mystery

Grow by exploring what is true and right  
in life

Believe in our ideas and act on them

Insist on freedom, justice, and peace for  
all beings

Value our home, Earth, that we share  
with all living things

We look forward to exploring these  
promises, the guiding principles of our  
faith, with your children in the Spirit  
Play classroom.