



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester Religious Exploration Ministry

Guidelines for RE Helping Hands

Thank you for contributing to our Religious Exploration Ministry as a Helping Hand! Your presence helps us meet UUA Safe Congregations recommendations by having at least two adults present in each classroom. The teachers welcome your assistance during class as needed and the children are grateful for your participation in their spiritual development.

No preparation is required to serve in this role. The main thing we ask of you as a Helping Hand is to bring your *UUness* to the class, to interact with our [Principles](#) in mind. The following points can also help orient your participation during class:

- ☯ Assist the teacher as needed before class to set up tables and chairs in the classroom, locate supplies and materials needed during class, and help clean up after class.
- ☯ At the start of class the teacher will invite the children to check-in. This is an important part of our time together, affirming that we share our joys and sorrows in community, and support each other. If you have something to share, please do. You are part of the children's community, too!
- ☯ The teacher you are assisting is responsible for knowing the curriculum, guiding the children through the lesson plan, and supervising the classroom. Please be mindful of the teacher's authority in the classroom and the time she/he has spent preparing the lesson.
- ☯ You might interject a short question or comment during discussion or activity to help augment the teacher's lesson and enrich the children and youth's learning by extending their thinking or providing an alternate perspective.
- ☯ Encourage the children to participate actively and thoughtfully. If someone is having trouble maintaining focus, you might sit next to them to help monitor their restlessness. If necessary, the teacher will call the children back into covenant as a reminder of how we agreed to interact in RE (this includes listening to each other, not interrupting and speaking respectfully). If a child or youth continues to engage in disruptive behavior, talk with the Director of Religious Exploration.

It is important that your presence enables us to be responsive to the Safe Congregations recommendations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, which suggests having two or more adults present in our classrooms at all times. Even if there are only a few children attending RE the morning you are participating as Helping Hands, it's important you are there.

Thank you so much for supporting the Religious Exploration Ministry in this way!

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