

# Ready for R.E.

## A Visual Agenda for the Children's Religious Education (R.E.) Program



Created as a part of  
Virginia Bruhn's Girl Scout Gold Award  
Project on behalf of the  
Community Church of Chapel Hill  
Unitarian Universalist

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# Welcome



Welcome to the Community Church of Chapel Hill UU! We are glad to have you here. Follow me to the Jones Building.





# Newcomers to R.E.

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Look for a big, green sign saying 'Welcome Families'.



Someone at this table can answer your questions.



This sign tells you about our Sunday schedule.

# Staff

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Reverend  
Thom Belote

(Our Minister)



Marion Hirsch

(Director of Lifespan  
Religious Education)



Kat Good

(Religious  
Education Assistant)

# Leadership

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Your leaders are:

- 1 Adult
- 2 Teenagers



You and Your Leaders Will:

- Play Games
- Read Stories
- Do Crafts

# Finding Your Place

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Water Circle:  
Ages 5 to 8



Fire Circle:  
Ages 8 to 11



# Check-In

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The check-in book  
lets us know you are  
here.



# Name Tags

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Find your  
name in  
the  
Name  
Tag box

-OR-



Get a blank  
name tag  
to write  
your name

# 8 Steps of R.E.

1) Gathering



2) Chalice



3) Meditation



4) Joys & Concerns



5) Singing



6) Storytime



7) Shalom



8) Playground



# 1) Gathering

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After you get your name tag, you can:

- Play games
- Draw
- Talk with friends





## 2) Chalice

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If you want to light the chalice, ask!



Chalice lighting words:

*"We light this chalice to celebrate Unitarian Universalism. This is the church of the open mind, the loving heart, and the helping hands"*

# 3) Meditation

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When the bell is rung, we sit quietly.



If you want to ring the bell, ask!

# 4) Joys and Concerns

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Joys and Concerns are something:

- Happy 😊
- Sad 😞
- Special ❤️



To share,  
put a  
stone in  
the  
sand.



# 5) Singing

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Sometimes we sing!



# 6) Storytime

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We open our minds by reading a story together.





# 7) Shalom

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Shalom means peace.

To say goodbye, we hold hands and sing our closing song called 'Shalom'.



## Lyrics to Shalom

Shalom, my friend, shalom, my friend.  
Shalom, Shalom. We'll meet again, we'll  
meet again. Shalom, Shalom.



# 8) Playground

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After worship, you can

- Go to the playground
- Stay inside



# Check-Out

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When your parent comes to the playground to get you:

- Clean up the play space
- Return your name tag
- Say goodbye



# Coffee Hour

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If you stay after worship, we:

- Go back to the community room



# Bathrooms

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These are the bathrooms.  
If you need to go, ask!

# Book Nook

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A quiet place to read if you need some space.

# FAQ

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Q: Who is the target audience?

A: This book is for any and all who wish to read and benefit from it, but the specific target audience is children with developmental challenges that benefit from a structured, visual guide of what goes on in R.E.

Q: How long does R.E. last?

A: R.E. lasts for an hour, the same length as the service in the sanctuary.

Q: Where do I pick my child up after service?

A: After the service, you can pick up your child on the playground. Occasionally, a child will prefer to stay inside; in that case, they can be picked up where they were dropped off earlier that morning.

Q: Who else will be at R.E.?

A: Children ages 4-11 and their adult and teen staff will be in R.E.

Q: Can my child stay with their sibling?

A: Yes, your child can stay with their younger sibling if it makes them feel more comfortable.

Q: Who is leading R.E and supervising my child?

A: There will always be at least one adult with the children. Generally there are 2 teenage staff members leading as well.



# FAQ (Continued)

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Q: What will my child be learning in R.E.?

A: The R.E. program emphasizes worship, community, and service, using those activities to teach the children about the U.U. faith.

Q: How long will my child spend outside?

A: After worship, Fire and Water Circle both groups go outside to the playground. They spend about 15 minutes there until they are picked up after the service.

Q: What happens if my child gets hurt?

A: There is a first aid kit and the staff has training in first aid, so if your child gets a minor injury, the staff will take care of it. If it is a more serious injury, the staff will come find you in the service.

Q: What if my child doesn't want to go to R.E.?

A: Explain to them that everyone feels scared doing something new. Talk to church staff for information and strategies. Sometimes staff can help figure out a way to help a child fit in.

Q: What do I need to do when I pick my child up?

A: You need to sign your child out in the sign-out book and make sure your child puts their name tag back in the name tag box.

# Why This Book is Important

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The purpose of this book was to create a visual guide of what happens on a typical Sunday at the Community Church. The intent was to create something that new families (specifically their children) could use to feel more prepared going into R.E.

This particular type of book is mainly targeted toward children with developmental challenges such as autism. By providing large pictures, simple to-the-point language, and step-by-step guidance, this book creates a less stimulating first introduction into the R.E. program. The children benefit from knowing the ins and outs of R.E. before physically entering the program. They are able to familiarize themselves with the routines of the morning. Additionally, if a child feels as if the activities are too interactive, they can sit with the book and follow along with the activities without actually having to be in the physical space if they feel it is too overwhelming.

By knowing the schedule of the activities in R.E., families would be able to reassure their children of what to expect on the first day.