

Four Reasons Your Meeting or Worship Group Should Welcome Children

Does your meeting welcome children? Do you offer childcare? If not, you might consider the following reasons why one family brings their child to meeting.

1. We come to meeting knowing we may have an experience with the Divine. I don't even like my child to miss out seeing a blimp fly over the house, so why in the world would I want her to miss this?!
2. Where would we leave her? If Meeting is on Sunday morning, everyone who could watch her and is not engaged in Sunday worship tends to have strong opinions about organized religions. So, if she asks one of these people where her parents are and what are they doing, what will they tell her? Will they explain the Quaker Way to her as we want her to experience it? Or will they explain it as they see it?
3. Our daughter has been to meeting and LOVES going. She even stays for Joys and Sorrows. Actually she insists on staying for that part -- even if we stand up to leave, she stays and listens.

...and finally...

4. The people you want in Meeting value children and families, whether or not they themselves have them. For some reason, it is still acceptable to classify access to childcare as a "nice to have" not a "need to have". This is wrong – and suggesting otherwise sends a message that there might be other antiquated beliefs floating around this meeting.

Connect with FGC:

- FGC has resources to support new and existing groups
- FGC can help a group connect with other local Quaker groups
- FGC can help you get listed on QuakerFinder.org to help others find you

FGC staff and volunteers are happy to talk with you about this, or any other issue, your meeting or worship group is facing. Please contact us by emailing us at newmeetings@fgcquaker.org or phoning 215-561-1700.

This document was downloaded from the website of Friends General Conference. Explore the many resources and opportunities we offer for Quakers, Quaker meetings, and all interested individuals. Go to www.fgcquaker.org.

