Pull Up A Chair: Nurturing Children’s Spirituality in Community

How do we support the spiritual journeys of the children in our lives? How do we invite all ages to the "big table" of a school or faith community, and also create nurturing "children's table" spaces in that community? How can the FA community, gathered for learning, worship and service, include both these experiences and movement between them? We'll explore an approach to journeying in the Spirit with children, share resources for this joyful work, and lift up the importance of play and story for all ages.

SPIRIT –
Space, Process, Imagination, Relationship, Intimacy, Trust

• How can we weave these ideas into our approach with curriculum, program or community?

Spiritual Formation and Identity –

➢ Rebecca Nye
  o A definition of spirituality – "relational consciousness"
  o Spirituality of “mutual blessing”

➢ John Westerhoff
  o Broader vision for children in community
    ▪ Faith “caught, not taught”
  o Moving through affiliative, searching, owned
  o Socialization view of faith development: like rings of a tree
    ▪ Included: sharing tradition; involvement in liturgy; purposeful interactions among 3 generations; acting as a community for justice in society

➢ Diane Butler Bass
  o Move from believing-behaving-belonging to belonging-behaving-believing
What gives you joy?

- Describe a place or space (physical or temporal) where you have felt awe, wonder, or a feeling of deep peace.

- Share about an activity that feels like “play” for you – when you lose track of time, and let go of the outcome but are deeply present in the moment.

- Where are the spaces and times in your life to use imagination, and how is this connected to creativity for you?

Reflect on this idea:

- For Quakers, gathering in silent, “waiting” worship is an act of both relational intimacy and trust in the process as we enter into silence individually and as a community.