

ILYM FUN LOG

Notes for Teachers

Classes are from 9 am-12 noon on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Assembly

Each morning at 9 am, all children ages 3-14 (called Junior Yearly Meeting) will assemble in one of the tents on the west side of the meetinghouse. Here you will sign in, get acquainted, sing songs, explain the day's activities and evaluate the previous day, go over rules and share some silent worship before breaking into smaller groups. This assembly may last 15-20 minutes. Depending on the Middle School leaders, the Middle Schoolers may or may not participate in this assembly, instead they would go directly to their meeting space—the Fox Hole, a building on the north side of the campus.

It is good to gather the children together so that parents know where to drop them off and can sign them in. The children are in one place and can meet their teachers and other children. It is good to start with songs while waiting for everyone to arrive. Then do introductions, everyday, as new children arrive each day and may not know the other children or their teachers. It gives everyone a chance to settle down and get ready for the day. Another advantage is that the whole group can practice worship geared for younger Friends.

Sign-in: Be sure to put out the student sign-in sheet for parents to sign children in and indicate where they will be. The sheet has a note saying that children must be picked up at noon, even if Business Meeting is not done by then.

In General

The suggested age group breakdown is:

Wee Friends/babysitting: 0-2 years old, in Tent 1

Preschool: 3-5 years old, in Tent 3

K-2nd grade: 6-8 years old, in Tent 4

3rd-6th grade: 9-11 years old, in Tent 5

Middle School: 12-14 years old, in the Fox Hole

These age groups may be flexible depending on the needs or abilities of children.

Religious Education Committee can provide suggestions for teaching topics and craft activities. Please feel free to mix and match any combination of activities to suit your needs. You may have some ideas of your own. Keep in mind that younger children do better with short projects.

It would be helpful if you could find your own assistants. You know who you can work with. If you are unable to find an assistant, please let the FUN Coordinator know.

Snacks

Plan on having a “potty break” and a snack time, too, in your morning routine. Simple snacks such as crackers, cheese, peanut butter, fruit slices, trail mix will be provided by the Snack Coordinator.

Craft Supplies

The Craft Coordinator will create an inventory list of craft items being stored at the ILYM campus. This list should be sent to you after the Memorial Day Work Weekend. If you intend to use any of these items, please tell the Craft Coordinator. We do not wish to have a teacher arrive hoping to use items which have already been taken by another teacher. You can also bring your own supplies for your projects. You will be reimbursed if your receipts are given to the FUN overall coordinator before the end of Annual Sessions.

Epistles

Each group of Young Friends usually writes their own Epistles. Epistles need to be prepared and ready to be read when during the Sunday reading of epistles. A legible copy of the epistle should be ready to hand to the Clerks after it is read.

Behavior

It is recommended that teachers begin each day's session going over guidelines and expected behavior in the classroom. Teachers may ask for input from students/parents when establishing these guidelines. Guidelines may be written down and displayed during the entire session.

On the first day the child attends, one/both parents should be encouraged to stay for a few minutes while the teacher goes over the classroom expectations.

The teacher does not have to tolerate unacceptable behavior. Stick to the guidelines and follow-through. If a child's behavior becomes disruptive to the flow of the classroom activity, the teacher has options: return child to care of parent; ask parent to remain with the child during class time; find an adult willing to give one-on-one attention to the child who requires and responds positively to such guidance in the classroom setting; other options may be acceptable/workable for the child and teacher. These options should also be mentioned to parents.

Taking into account the unique qualities we each bring to Annual Sessions and to ILYM, it is our hope that the teacher will carefully consider how best to handle a problem in a loving and caring manner—speak/listen to the child/parent. Ask yourself, “How can I handle this problem so everyone wins?”

Suggested Guidelines:

- Listen to the teacher
- Have a good time but do not get rowdy
- Do not throw things
- Help clean up messes
- Do not touch anyone else's project
- Stay out of corn/soybean fields (stay on Meetinghouse grounds or road)

Teacher Support Group

Recently, a teacher's support group has been used during Annual Sessions—about two or three people who are available at a set time each day to listen to teacher's problems, ideas, and to just let teachers unwind.

A Suggested Schedule for ages 3-5

- 9:00 Join with other classes in opening exercises (usually held in a tent on the west side of the meetinghouse). Songs, a story, a short meeting for worship.
- 9:30 Class gathers in their tent
First day: name games, sharing activities, get to know each other; with children's ideas, discuss good group behavior expectations.
Second and Third day: bring focus to theme of Annual Sessions with conversation and a story.
- 9:50 Introduce theme or follow up story line with a craft or art project (a learn by doing time).
- 10:30 Snack and play time—this is a time for some organized games. Begin with some active ones out on the lawn if possible and end with some quieter ones to help children ready themselves for quieter activities.
- 11-11:40 Re-gather to focus again on some aspect of the Annual Sessions theme: invite a guest, have a treasure hunt, finish a project, another art or craft project, read or tell a story, learn a song with hand movements, color/draw a picture, have puzzles or board games available.
- 11:40 Clean up
- 11:50 Develop a closing circle—have a way to close calmly and send children off gently: chants, affirmations, favorite songs or poems or focusing on an object are all good.

Lots of different activities are possible during Annual Sessions. Some teachers plan a field trip for one day. There are wonderful people within the resources of ILYM who might be available to tell a story, share some experience or part of their life or sing some songs.

The pre-schoolers are wonderfully active and receptive to trying new games and activities. Homemade play dough, finger paints, bubbles, balloons and craft projects that can be played or that “do” something are always popular. Kids like to have choices and to be involved in the planning whenever possible. Be conscious that there will be limited table space for large projects. Many of the kids of this age will have a limited attention span and will need projects of fairly short duration. Frequently, you will not have the same group of kids from one day to the next as families arrive and depart according to their needs.

We have found that because of the intensity of the Annual Sessions experience, children tire easily, especially by the third day (Saturday). It is a good idea to remain flexible with your plans. Having a quick game, story or art activity as a contingency plan will help. Occasionally, children will want to leave the group to rejoin their parents. Thus, it is important to maintain a registration sheet where parents' locations can be recorded and to try to have two adults present with the group at all times. The reward of being with this age group is seeing shy children becoming involved and children helping each other.

Resources:

Religious Education in the Home and Small Meeting by Mary Snyder

New Games

Everyone Wins! Cooperative Games and Activities by Sambhava and Josette Luvmoor

Cooperative Games Manual by Jim Deacove

The Kids' Nature Book – 365 Indoor/Outdoor Activities by Susan Milord

Friendly Classroom for a Small Planet

A Suggested Schedule for Ages 6-8

- 9:00 Join with other classes in opening exercises (usually held in a tent on the west side of the meetinghouse). Songs, a story, a short meeting for worship.
- 9:30 Class gathers in their tent
First day: name games, sharing activities, get to know each other; with children's ideas, discuss good group behavior expectations and record on a chart for all to see..
Second and Third day: bring focus to theme of Annual Sessions with conversation and a story.
- 9:50 Introduce theme with related activity or project—art, crafts, role playing, construction (a learn by doing time).
- 10:30 Snack and play time—organized, active games help use large muscles and prevent the over excitement of unstructured frantic chasing.
- 11-11:40 Small group time—regather to focus on theme: have a guest, begin a journal, finish a project, plan and work on a special event (a display or sharing with another class), art projects, read or tell a story, have puzzles or board games available, cooking experience.
- 11:40 Clean up
- 11:50 Develop a closing circle—have a way to close calmly and send children off gently: chants, affirmations, favorite songs or poems or focusing on an object are all good.

Lots of different activities are possible during Annual Sessions. Some teachers plan a field trip for one day. Some plan a three-day project such as making your own journal; cover, binding and pages. Sometimes classes prepare something for the talent show held on Saturday afternoon.

There will be enormous difference in motor development and ability in this age group. Kids seem to appreciate ways to interact and activities that are different from the kinds of experiences they have in school. They like to have choices and be involved in planning. Be conscious that there will be limited table space for large projects. Many of the kids of this age will have a limited attention span and have trouble concentrating on one thing for long. If you choose to do a three day project, bear in mind that lengthy, involved projects can be difficult to complete and you will need to plan to offer additional simple new projects each day. Frequently, you will not have the same group of kids from one day to the next as families arrive and depart according to their needs.

Because of the intensity of the Annual Sessions, children tire easily, especially by the third day (Saturday). It is a good idea to remain flexible with your plans. Having a quick game, story or art activity as a contingency plan will help. Children of this age respond well to positive suggestions and a loving approach. They are just beginning to consider others feelings before speaking or acting.

Resources:

Religious Education in the Home and Small Meeting by Mary Snyder

New Games

Everyone Wins! Cooperative Games and Activities by Sambhava and Josette Luvmoor

Cooperative Games Manual by Jim Deacove

The Kids' Nature Book – 365 Indoor/Outdoor Activities by Susan Milord

Hands Around the World (activities for cultural awareness) by Susan Milord

Friendly Classroom for a Small Planet

Lighting Candles in the Dark (Quaker stories for reading aloud)

A Suggested Schedule for Ages 9-11

- 9:00 Join with other classes in opening exercises (usually held in a tent on the west side of the meetinghouse). Songs, a story, a short meeting for worship.
- 9:30 Class gathers in their tent
First day: name games, sharing activities, get to know each other (your name and Meeting; your first ILYM?; tell us your favorite movie and why – leader to start). Talk about need for rules during time together this week—have silence to contemplate some simple rules and then list rules on board to be visible all week (and added to if necessary).
Second and Third day: sharing activities (what is your favorite book and why?); go over rules—any changes or additions? Use silence if necessary to contemplate need for rules.
- 10-10:15 Explain today’s activities (be open to discussion, additions and changes as weather and group dynamics allow)
- 10:15-11 Work on project, snacks, bathroom break
- 11-11:30 All group game or activity requiring lots of energy/movement (kickball)..
- 11:30-noon Clean up; Closing circle – have a way to close calmly and send children off gently (work on Epistle)

Be aware of group dynamics. If something is going well, allow activity to continue a bit longer. If activity is not working well, end that activity early and play an active game on the lawn. Have a list of games at hand for times like this so you are prepared.

Do not be afraid to skip an activity if you know it just will not work.

Have some extra activities ready to go so you are prepared for “extra time” on your hands.

Consider short stories or even short videos for group discussion. (A large laptop could be used for this).

RESOURCES:

Religious Education in the Home and Small Meeting by Mary Snyder

New Games

Everyone Wins! Cooperative Games and Activities by Sambhava and Josette Luvmoor

Cooperative Games Manual by Jim Deacove

The Kids’ Nature Book – 365 Indoor/Outdoor Activities by Susan Milord

Hands Around the World (activities for cultural awareness) by Susan Milord

Friendly Classroom for a Small Planet

Lighting Candles in the Dark (Quaker stories for reading aloud)

REPORT FOR THE F.U.N. LOG

Teacher/coordinator name _____

Age group/area of responsibility _____

Outline of daily schedule:

Program theme:

Topics of discussion:

Games, songs, craft activities (Please include directions):

Comments:

Requests: