

The welcome box

Ideas for creating your own welcome box to encourage children to join worship and to build an all-age community.

Be ready for children and young people in your Quaker meeting.





Introduction

As Quakers, we have a unique offering for children on their spiritual and faith journey.

Our meetings, regardless of their size, can be warm, vibrant, diverse, and nurturing spaces for individuals of all ages. If we are not prepared, children and families might feel uncomfortable or unwelcome, and may not come back.

Therefore, we must be ready with love and care.

This leaflet is for Quaker meetings without a separate children's meeting or where children don't attend regularly. It provides suggestions for a box or bag to keep in the meeting room with items to encourage participation in worship and build an all-age community.

Additional guidelines are available for selecting further items.

What's in the box?

The box must be designed with safety in mind, ensuring no sharp edges or splinters. Consider adding a colourful design to the exterior. Bags should not have long ties.

Suggested resources

Available from cypadmin@quaker.org.uk:

- Chatterbox paper toy
- *Quaker meeting and me* – www.quaker.org.uk/documents/quaker-meeting-and-me
- *Let's explore the Quaker way* – www.quaker.org.uk/documents/lets-explore-the-quaker-way-2017
- *I'm a Quaker, this is why* – www.quaker.org.uk/documents/im-a-quaker-final
- For parents or carers: *Getting ready for Quaker worship* www.quaker.org.uk/documents/gettingreadyforquakerworship.



Suggested books

Available from <https://bookshop.quaker.org.uk>:

- *Living our beliefs* – www.quaker.org.uk/documents/living-our-beliefs-2nd-ed
- *A children's illustrated Advices and Queries*, Rebecca Price
- *Peaceful Inside* and *The Worship Kit*, John Lampen
- An illustrated Bible
- A variety of books for 0–16s. Include sensory and picture books for very young children and graphic novels for older children as well as short easy readers. For ideas visit The Book Trust and the Quaker Bookshop. The Quaker Bookshop selects Books of the Month for children and young people.

Suggested items

- **Good quality washable art materials** including accurate skin tone crayons, coloured pencils, pens, paper, and boards to lean on
- **Sensory objects and quiet fidget toys** including sponges, electric candles, non-sharp pipe cleaners and playdough
- **A variety of puzzles, jigsaws and/or toys for different ages.** These should all carry the CE mark and be sound and free from sharp edges, lead paint and small parts. Galt Toys, www.galttoys.com, offers a good selection of these. You could also include story cards, colouring books, origami paper and instructions.

Summary

It is important for children to see themselves, and a wide range of other children with different backgrounds and experiences, reflected in books.

Books help children understand the world. Sometimes they offer affirmation, reflecting our families, our cultures, our environment. The greater the diversity of children's books available, the more opportunity there is for everyone to learn more about each other and to understand each other's joys and struggles.

It is important to regularly check the box and replace anything that has run out or is broken, as well as rotating the available books and toys.

Keep the box in a cosy corner with colourful cushions and a rug. Create a welcoming space for visitors that is still part of the main circle of Friends.



Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends (Quakers)

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Friends House, 173 Euston Road
London, NW1 2BJ

To find out what else we offer for
children and young people, please
contact: cypadmin@quaker.org.uk.

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story of witness or to request support
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