



Unitarian Universalist Santa Fe

Rights and Responsibilities of Participants in Family Ministry

In our Family Ministry program, we promote the [seven principles of Unitarian Universalism](#):

- **1st Principle:** We believe that each and every person is important.
- **2nd Principle:** We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.
- **3rd Principle:** We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.
- **4th Principle:** We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.
- **5th Principle:** We believe that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them.
- **6th Principle:** We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.
- **7th Principle:** We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.

It is our right to do this work. It is our responsibility to allow **everyone** in class to do this work as well.

All class participants have the following responsibilities to each other. In this way, we create a safe and respectful environment that allows everyone a place to grow and learn. To nurture a positive environment, we must maintain high standards for behavior.

1. One person talks at a time with an "indoor" voice, while everyone listens.
2. Treat each other with kindness in words and actions; no put-downs.
3. Act in a safe way in the classroom; keep hands and feet to self.
4. Walk while in the building, don't run.
5. Use materials appropriately and sparingly.
6. Everyone cleans up any mess we made.

When a child is unable to do one of these things, the following procedures will be used to ensure that a harmonious environment is maintained for everyone.

First Occurrence: The child will be reminded of the class rules and responsibilities.

Second Occurrence: The child will sit apart from the group for 2-3 minutes. She or he will have a quiet, private conversation with a teacher about the behavior before rejoining the group.

Third Occurrence: The child will have a short time away from class with the Religious Educator and write, draw, or discuss why they are having difficulty cooperating. The Religious Educator and child will come up with ideas to solve the problem. The child may then return to class. If, after five minutes with the Religious Educator, the child is unable to return to class, the parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to remain with the child. Whenever a child is removed from class, the Religious Educator will meet with the parent/guardian and child after Sunday school to discuss how to solve the problem.

If a child must be removed from class more than three times in one year they may no longer participate in that class until a care team is created consisting of parents/guardians, teachers, Religious Educator, etc. to establish a process for returning the child to class. Our objective is to stop the disruptive behavior and to welcome the child back into class.

Our teachers will be reminding our children of these basic rules every Sunday morning when they enter their classrooms. Our goal is to provide an environment that allows all children and youth to walk together in harmony.