

UUCSC RE Committee Evaluation of Program 2018-19

We are still making adjustments as we deal with great variation in numbers of children each week and as we have shifted to a play based curriculum around monthly themes. There is a lot of enthusiasm among the teachers and the children.

Program Goals 2018-19:

1. *Establish opening and closing rituals that increase self-awareness and an appreciation for the sacredness of the Universe.* This year we have been trying out different rituals and finding the ones that work best for the group.
2. *Create a Beloved community encouraging peer interactions that model acceptance, kindness and respect for all.* We are introducing non-violent communication to the classroom.
3. *Provide opportunities to reflect on and get in touch with their feelings and to share them in a safe space with a group of peers and trusted adults.* Some of the children are getting more comfortable with sharing. It has been suggested to give each child a piece of beeswax and a pebble as they come in, to save some time.
4. *Base all RE activities around the principles of UU faith, with an emphasis on our cultural and religious heritage, global religions and faith practices, an appreciation for the natural world, and the interdependent web of existence.* As we have shifted to a play based curriculum, the lesson is being introduced on the first Sunday of the month, and activities are based on the theme of the month. This has caused some confusion with the teachers who have been off on the first Sunday. So we need to have the teachers there for 3 Sundays a month including the first Sunday.
5. *Provide opportunities to put faith into action through service projects that benefit the wider community.* It hasn't been possible to continue some of the activities from the past with new rules at Welcome House regarding meals. The children have continued making prayer shawls. There are plans to clean up at the park by the library when the weather gets warmer.
6. *Develop a Multi-age social culture, where kids learn from each other.* This hasn't been flawless, but is working. We could give some of the older children specific roles. We should also consider more flexibility with allowing older kids from the nursery into the classroom, as they are ready. This has been happening successfully.
7. *Address issues of numbers and flexibility in classes each Sunday.* Having three teachers and one classroom has been working well. The pageants have been organized so attendance isn't an issue.
8. *Recruit more teacher/volunteers.* We are shifting to using volunteer rather than teacher. We need to try harder to schedule the teacher orientations, especially since we have shifted the curriculum approach. We should also define their roles, ie having one as the leader on a particular Sunday.