




# Fourth Unitarian Society of Westchester Religious Education Ministry



## Guidelines for RE Helping Hands

Thank you for assisting our Religious Education teachers as a Helping Hand! Your presence in the classroom helps our teachers and children in significant ways.

The main thing we ask of you as a Helping Hand is to bring your *UUness* to the class. The following points can help orient your participation during class:

-  The teacher you are assisting is responsible for knowing the curriculum, guiding the children through that week's lesson plan, and supervising the classroom. Please be mindful of the teacher's authority in the classroom and the time she/he has spent preparing the morning's lesson.
-  You might interject a short question or comment during discussion or activity to help augment the teacher's lesson and enrich the children's learning by extending their thinking or providing an alternate perspective.
-  Encourage the children to participate actively and thoughtfully. If a child is having trouble maintaining focus, you might sit next to the child and help monitor his or her restlessness. If a child is engaging in disruptive behavior, you might quietly remove the child from the classroom and have a conversation about the class covenant.

It is also critically important that your presence enables us to be responsive to the Safe Congregations recommendations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, which suggests having two or more adults present in our classrooms at all times. Even if there are only a few children attending RE the morning you are participating as Helping Hands, please remember that part of your role is to ensure we have more than one adult in each classroom at all times.

Thank you so much for supporting the Religious Education Ministry in this way!

Please don't hesitate to contact Tracy Breneman with questions.

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