



What is Godly Play?

A method for supporting religious education and children's spiritual development

Exploration and play

The Godly Play method is based on an understanding that play and exploration are fundamental to children's learning, fostering the imagination and creativity needed to engage with religious thinking.

Scripture and tradition

Godly Play draws deeply on the Bible and on Christian worship and tradition.

Wonder and imagination

Godly Play nurtures imagination and wonder, supporting children to explore spiritual themes in a meaningful way.

Personal connection

Godly Play fosters personal encounter with the stories and traditions of the Christian faith.



Elements of Godly Play



Building community

Godly Play contributes to building community through personal greeting and farewell, through listening to one another and through sharing a feast together.

Storytelling

Storytelling is a fundamental element of the Godly Play method, enriching the learning experience and engaging participants.



Wondering



The Godly Play method uses open questions to encourage children to interrogate and make meaning from stories and worship traditions. Children are encouraged to ask questions, creating space for dialogue and personal expression.

Response

The Godly Play method offers choice, encouraging children to build on their strengths, pursue their interests, experiment and ask questions.



Core components of Godly Play

Sacred stories and parables

The sacred stories of the Bible are central to the Godly Play approach, providing a framework for spiritual learning and exploration. The stories help children to encounter the deep and ancient truths of the Judeo-Christian tradition. The parables help children to engage with the heart of Jesus' teaching and to explore the power of metaphor.



Liturgical action and silence



Godly Play encourages children to engage actively in worship through liturgical actions, fostering a deeper connection to their faith.

Incorporating silence allows children to reflect on their understanding of the sacred, promoting personal and spiritual growth.

Children explore and express their understanding of the sacred through both action and contemplation in Godly Play.

Personal reflection

Godly Play promotes personal reflection, enabling children to connect with their learning and gain deeper understanding.



Inspiration and origins

Curiosity

The Godly Play method aims to respect and nurture children's innate curiosity and creativity in spiritual exploration.

Theology

Godly Play incorporates insights from various Christian theologians, offering a broad field of exploration.

Montessori

The Montessori method influenced the development of Godly Play, emphasizing hands-on learning and respect for children's natural curiosity.

Evolution

Based on deep research into children's spiritual development, and with roots in the Ignatian spiritual tradition, Godly Play has been evolving since the 1980s. The earliest texts were published in 2002 and there is constant evaluation and revision, with new work published regularly by the Godly Play Foundation.

Global

Godly Play is a world-wide movement, present in 70 countries, with texts translated into a variety of languages.

Implementation

Training

Training really helps in the implementation of Godly Play, ensuring facilitators understand the methodology and principles. Trained facilitators play a crucial role in guiding children's spiritual journey and fostering a meaningful learning environment.

www.godlyplay.uk

*A Christian movement centred on childhood spirituality
providing training to transform thinking and practice for the whole of life*