

## Spirit Play Classroom Introduction

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**Materials (left in their places in the classroom until called for):**

- **Caring Card Basket**
- **Build-a-Church block cart**
- **Labyrinth Traveler Basket**
- **Magic Marble mountain**
- **Opening and Closing basket**
- **Geoboards**
- **Tallest tree**

Usually, on a Sunday, after we speak our Peace Greeting, after we share Joys and Sorrows...usually we have a story. Today let's tell the story of all the gifts that are here in our classroom. Let's make ourselves part of the story and talk about the things that we will do and say in our classroom every Sunday.

In our Spirit Play classroom, we will use walking feet.

*Can you tap your feet only as fast as walking feet can go and no faster?*

In our Spirit Play classroom, we will use inside voices.

*Can you say your name in an inside voice and no louder?*

In our Spirit Play classroom, we will ask and share using kind words. These words are almost magic words, because they make us feel friendly toward each other.

*What's the magic word for asking for something you'd like to have or use?*

*What's the magic word for when someone shares with you or gives you something?*

*And what's the magic word that you say when someone says "Thank you"?*

I'm curious. When is everyone's birthday?

*Invite the kids to share their birthday if they know it.*

You know, walking into our Spirit Play classroom is just like walking in to our own birthday. Do you know why? Because everything in here is a gift for us to enjoy and use. The books and toys and special baskets are all gifts to us from our church. When someone gives us a gift, we treat it gently. We use it as it should be used. We remember that it's not a gift just for one person, but for every friend in Spirit Play.

Would you like to see some of the gifts in our Spirit Play classroom?

*Ask a co-teacher to bring you the following items, one by one, making clear where*

*it comes from and where it gets put back when someone is done using it...*

- Here's our **Caring Card kit**. It's for us to use! In the basket there are cards, colored pencils, stamps and envelopes. We call these cards caring cards because we can mail them to people in our church who are sad and need to know we care, or to people who are happy and need to know that we're happy with them. Every Sunday, we'll tell you who might like a card and why. You can put your own stamp on and lick the envelope shut!

*Can you point to where the Caring Card table is?*

- Here's our **Build-a-Church** block cart and some books that have nice pictures of churches around the world. You can use the blocks to build a church of your own. If you build a church that you think is your own best church, we'll take a picture of it and put it up on the wall for people to see. You can build different buildings, too, but we only take pictures of churches for our Church Wall.

*Can you point to the Build-a-Church blocks? How about the Caring Cards?*

- Here's our basket of **Labyrinth Travelers**. You can pick any one of these lovely things and take it all the way through the labyrinth on the soft rug in the corner. Put it back in the basket when you're finished. Labyrinths are different than mazes because they don't have any wrong turns. The Labyrinth is good for days when you feel quiet and for days when you need to feel a little quieter than you do.

*Can you point to where the Labyrinth is? How about the Build-a-Church blocks?*

- Here are some books from our **Book Nook**. You may choose to read them by yourself or with someone else. The cozy floor cushions are for people reading books.

*Can you point to the Book Nook? How about to the Caring Cards?*

- Here are some beautiful new toys. You may ask to play with these alone or with a friend. It's important to play with them carefully, because they are gifts from our church that loves us. When you are finished, you can give them back to a teacher.

**Teachers – please observe the use of these toys carefully as children learn to use them gently and can show that they take care of them. Let's give it a few weeks and watch how things work for them.**

- Magic Marble mountain – roll a marble down gently
- Opening and Closing basket – show a few items and their contents
- Geoboards – show how the rubber bands make pictures
- Tallest tree – show how the boxes stack
- Magnifying glasses – show how we use them

Every Sunday, you can choose what you'd like to do for a little while during our Sunday School class. You can also help with feast, or use playdoh, or use crayons and paper. You get to choose what you will play with and then clean up. There are other toys that you might remember from last time we were in Sunday School.

Let's choose today's work, now. If you'd like to play with a friend, tell us. When it's time to clean up, we'll let you know.

*Go around the circle and ask each child to announce their plans for Work Time. It's okay to say, "I don't know yet" – we'll come back to them.*

*When nearly everyone has stated their plans, you can ring a chime to end the circle and begin Work Time. Ring the chime again when it's time to clean up and ready for concluding.*