WHAT WE DO AT PEACEMAKER MEETINGS

Each meeting is a "**PEACEMAKER SPACE.**" All youngsters and adults agree to abide by the **"No Violence Rule:**
When I am in a Peacemaker Space,
I will try not to not hurt myself, others, or the natural world."

In creating a **"PEACEMAKER SPACE"** we strive to leave all forms of violence outside. This includes physical violence, as well as hurting others' feelings (name-calling, put-downs.) Peacemakers are encouraged to create their own **"PEACEMAKER SPACE,"** perhaps in their room at home.

From our unique trilogy ~ peacemaking with self, others, and the natural world ~ we select activities and resources that teach children peacemaking skills. Each program or activity is carefully designed to be appropriate to the age and development of the group.

EACH MEETING INCLUDES

INFORMATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL: During this part of the meeting, new information is presented by adult Co-leaders or guests. **The focus is on one of the three areas of peacemaking: with self, others, or the natural world.** Many programs are done in both age groups with age-appropriate adaptations. Techniques used to present the programs include: improvisational theater, role-playing, skits, puppetry, drawing, collage, other art projects, cooperative creations, brainstorming, speakers, video, film, photography, and discussion.

PEER DISCUSSION: During this time youth share how they acted as Peacemakers since the last meeting. They learn facilitation skills while gaining valuable peer support for peacemaking in their daily lives. **Young people regard each other's opinions highly**, begin to find peacemaking possible in their own lives, and explore options for themselves. This part of the meeting serves as a review and integration of previously learned information.

GAMES AND PLAY: We open and close with a fun activity, and intersperse them liberally throughout the meeting. Much information is presented using gaming techniques. An integral part of child-child relationships is play. **We play cooperative games,** valuing each child's participation and the concept of group "winning." All games include all children in every aspect of the fun - **no one is ever "out."** The nature of cooperative games eases new children into the group, and allows everyone, including children with disabilities to participate equally.