



Minutes from the Children's Programme at Yearly Meeting May 2026

Britain Yearly Meeting

New Shoots

(Age 0-2½)

7 New Shoots have been getting to know each other, learning names, exploring sharing, helping each other and eating together. It takes time to build bridges and now we know each other better.

Fox Cubs

(Age 2½-4)

We are the Fox Cubs aged 2½ to 4 and we made a garden on the window, played and worshipped together.

We explored our similarities and differences, practiced sharing, playing with trains and the kitchen, looking after each other and our dollies, and doing silly things. Sometimes it was difficult but we practised solving our problems.

We really enjoyed building bridges and learning about the importance of firm foundations, truth and love. We learnt about the story of cooperative donkeys during our visit to the library (as well as the fun of the slidy floor and echoey sounds).

Stories were really important for us to explore our theme of building bridges and laughing together. We are going home happy but tired, and hope to see each other again.

Light Explorers

(Age 5-8½)

We came together on Saturday morning feeling nervous, happy and excited. We started with some name games to help us remember everyone new and old. Then, we practiced our communication and cooperation skills by silently getting into a birthday line. Then, we thought about some statements, such as "we should always tell the truth", by standing on a spectrum from yes to no. We then thought about what makes a good friend and wrote this on paper bricks to make a Friendship Bridge. We finished the morning by learning about worship and came together for silent worship.

After lunch, we sang with Tim Gee and the Spiritual Adventurers. We thought about when and where our Light shines, such as when the sky is grey and used this to make new lyrics. Then, we worshipped together as the Light Explorers and started collecting ideas for our minute and thinking about nominations.

On Sunday, some of us enjoyed attending All Ages Worship. We were excited to see people we know outside yearly meeting and to see the lyrics we made with Tim being used. We then went to the library and heard the Tale of The Two Mules and learnt that, if we work together, it becomes a win-win story, rather than loose-loose. We also thought about what is needed for cooperation and community, to make a cooperation bridge.

Ailish joined us on Monday morning to help us think about the life cycle of a conflict. We learnt that conflict can start from something very small, such as confusion but can become huge. We talked about how we might feel when we have conflict; confused, frustrated and angry. Explaining how we feel can help us stop confusion and resolve the conflict, but can take a very long time. There might be some people we really disagree with, who might not want to make a bridge, but it's still important we try to build bridges with them.

We have enjoyed playing games together this weekend and building a community by snacking together.

Spiritual Adventurers

(Age 8½-11)

At the start of our time together we read about building a story bridge between communities by sharing stories, signs and picnics. Afterward decorated kites with our stories. It was wonderful sharing afternoon tea and cakes with visiting adults Friends from USA, the Philippines and Switzerland and got to know each other and found out about Quakers in their countries.

We glued ourselves and lollipop stick bridges together.

With Tim Gee and the Light Explorers we sang lots of songs. When some children were upset, other children comforted them. Later another Friend Summer helped us learn to sign Building Bridges.

Whilst playing hospitals we had a few injuries but our talented doctors fixed them all before the parents arrived.

When it was too busy and noisy, some people read stories. We found a wonderful book about Elizabeth Fry where she realised "I'm sad because I am not being kind enough to people." We also tried to practice this as everyone helped each other without being asked.

At the park we had fun playing netball and then football, without having arguments. We also made tree dens and played with parachutes and skipping ropes. We washed a few children in a parachute washer-machine.

In our session with Ailish after helping two Friends resolve their argument about fracking we had a wedding.

The Spiritual Adventurers' sessions were full of fun, friendship and hope for the future. We look forward to meeting again soon.