

## **ACTIVITY FOR STATEMENT #6 To Play Creatively**

This activity is designed to introduce practical skills and perspectives for nurturing peace at home. It recognizes the sixth statement of the Family Pledge for Nonviolence as an effective tool for children, youth and adults to establish common patterns for peaceful living.

Preface this activity with the lead-in or gathering activity that is designed to introduce each statement of the Family Pledge for Nonviolence. If you are sharing this time with young children, you may wish to plan separate occasions to address each one of them.

### **Supplies:**

- Bible
- Copies of the [Coloring Sheet for "Play Creatively"](#)
- Copies of [Activity Sheet D: Story Starter #3](#)
- Copies of [Activity Sheet E: Story Starter #4](#)
- Narrow strips of paper
- Pens or pencils
- Crayons or markers

### **Leader's Notes:**

- Distribute copies of the coloring sheet and invite participants to color it while they are waiting for everyone to gather.
- Utilize the Lead-in or Gathering Activity to set the stage for this activity. Refer to Statement #6 to complete the phrase "Today, we seek to...." Then, display a copy of the coloring sheet and ask your participants to comment on the role creative play might play in peacemaking.
- Ask your participants to share some examples of ways they might play creatively.
- Suggest that play is supposed to be fun and relaxing, but that it can become stressful when we grow tired of the activity or become irritated with others with whom we are playing. Discuss some of the things they do when they are involved in similar situations.
- Scan through the Story Starters and, depending on the ages of the children involved, choose one or both of them to introduce. The handout "I don't know! What do you want to do?" is intended to be used with younger children and "The Football Game" is meant for older participants.
- Record a few ways people might play creatively. Display them as you introduce the closing exercise.

### **Activity: Finish The Story**

Distribute copies of Activity Sheet D or E. Read through the scenario together and invite everyone to draw or write possible solutions or endings to the story. Encourage them to share their art and insights with one another. Use the discussion questions at the bottom of the handout to consider ways you approach your own activities.

**Closing Activity: I'd Like to Change My Ways.**

Distribute slips of paper along with writing utensils. Invite everyone to make note of one thing they would be willing to play more creatively. Encourage them to keep it in their pocket, purse, or on the bathroom mirror, etc.

Close this activity by sharing a brief prayer along with the following Bible verse.

Rejoice, young *one*, while you are young, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth.  
Ecclesiastes 11:9 NRSV adapted