

If parishes welcome and respect children, creating an atmosphere of trust, then children will listen.

**Judith Dunlap,
*Practical Catechesis***

traditions within your setting, you affirm your learners and help them appreciate how special each of them is in God's eyes.

You reinforce this respectful climate by providing opportunities for the learners to interact with one another, to share their beliefs and ideas, and to engage in activities and problem solving related to the doctrines and values you are teaching. Allow the learners to work together in small groups. Ask open-ended questions and invite them to discuss answers

among themselves. As long as you offer clear directions and expectations, learners of all ages will respond well to group work.

You can never "cause" faith in another person. Faith is a gift from God. The time you spend with a particular learner is only a small moment in his or her faith journey, but it can be a significant moment. When you create a positive climate in which the seeds of faith can grow, you truly participate in the ministry of Jesus.



For Reflection

- What challenges do you face in responding in a positive way to the ethnic diversity in your classroom and parish?
- What can you do to make your catechetical setting a truly sacred space?



The article on "Creating Sacred Space for Prayer" on pages 42 and 43 will assist you in making your setting a more hospitable space for prayer and reflection.