A decorative border made of colorful LEGO bricks in red, blue, green, and yellow, arranged in a stepped pattern around the edges of the page.

Church or other religious building

Faith, Spirituality and Community

Key words:

LEGO, church or other building, religion, construction, creativity, faith, spirituality, community, belief

Target group:

primary school pupils (ages 6-11)

Objectives:

This LEGO-based activity introduces children to concepts of faith, spirituality and community through playful construction. As participants design their spiritual spaces, they'll explore symbolic architecture while developing respect for religious diversity. The project fosters creativity and problem-solving skills through hands-on building, while teamwork and collaboration help strengthen both social skills and design abilities in this meaningful learning experience.

General Guideline on Time Allocation:

The duration needed to carry out this activity may vary depending on the specific group of children. Teachers are encouraged to adapt the implementation according to the needs, interests, and dynamics of the group.

In the preparatory phase, teachers may use a variety of activities to introduce and contextualize the chosen topic. These can include discussions, videos, drawings, storytelling, or even a field trip, depending on the age and background knowledge of the children.

The main construction phase, during which children plan and build their urban element using LEGO bricks, should typically not exceed 45 to 60 minutes. However, this phase often stimulates further curiosity and questions among the children, potentially leading to extended engagement or follow-up activities. For more detailed instructions and pedagogical support on how to implement activities of INNO-kids project, please download the Teacher's Methodological Guide.

Materials and Resources Needed:

- Several Lego pieces of different colors and shapes.
- Lego bases (optional).
- Lego miniatures of people (faithful, priest, pastor, etc.).
- Lego furniture for the church (altar, pulpit, benches, etc.).
- Colorful Lego stained glass.
- Decorative elements of Lego (flowers, trees, animals, etc.).
- Lego religious signs and objects.



Note: in the absence of elements in LEGO pieces, invite children to draw, color and cut on paper, or build using other material

Introduction:

Talk to children about the importance of faith and spirituality in people's lives. Explain what a church is and how it works. You can show photos or videos of real churches so the children have a better idea of the environment. Present and dialogue about the different religions of the world and their symbols, respecting the beliefs of each one.

A church is a place of religious worship and a central point in the life of many communities. It is where people gather to pray, celebrate religious rituals and share important moments in life. In this activity, we will explore the theme of the church by building a church with LEGO. Let's think about the different elements that make up a church that represents you and how we can represent them in our construction.

Procedure:

Preparation

Introduce the theme of the church to children and briefly discuss its importance in the community.

Present the available LEGO sets and explain that they will use these blocks to build a church.

Construction

Divide the children into groups of 2 to 4 people.

Ask each group to discuss and draw up a plan for their Lego church. The plan should include the layout of the church (central ship, altar, sacristy, etc.), the interior decoration (vitrals, religious images, etc.), the religious objects that the church will have and the elements that represent the faith of each group.

Let the kids explore LEGO and start building the church.

Based on the plan, the groups should start building their Lego church. Encourage creativity and collaboration among team members while building different elements such as the bell tower, altar, benches, etc.. Encourage them to think about the details and symbology they can add to your construction.



Details

Once the basic structure of the church is ready, groups can add details such as:

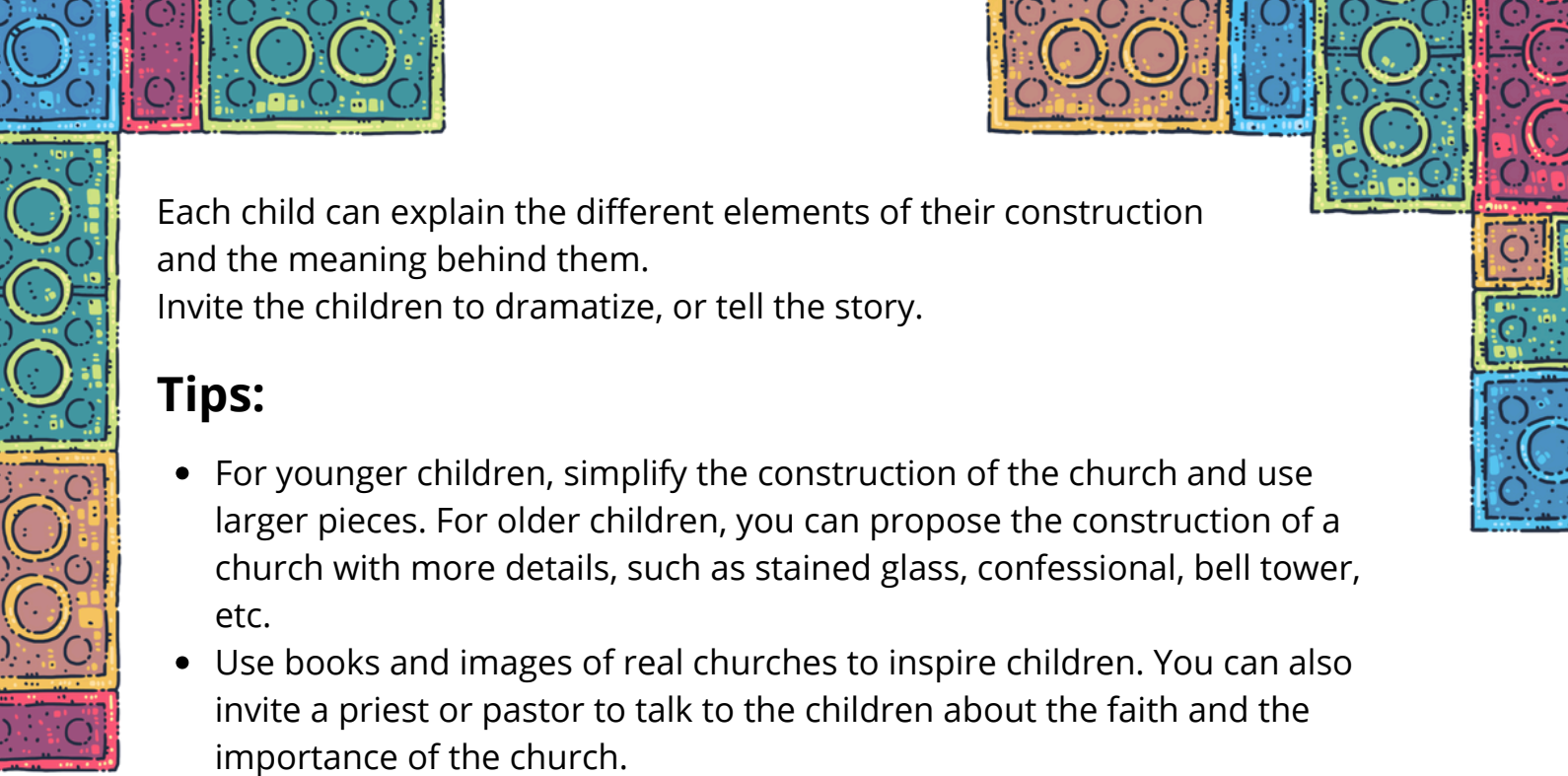
- Miniatures representing the people at Mass, praying or participating in other religious activities.
- Furniture for the church as altar, pulpit, benches, confessional, etc.
- Religious objects such as cross, star of David, menorah, chalice, host, etc.
- Colorful stained glass with biblical scenes or religious symbols.
- Decorative elements of Lego such as flowers, trees, animals, angels, etc.
- Signs with religious symbols to indicate different church spaces.

Stories

When the church is complete, children can create stories about the activities that take place on site. Encourage dramatization and interaction between groups. Children can imagine different situations, such as celebrating a Mass, a wedding, a baptism or a moment of prayer.

Presentation

Ask the children to introduce their churches to the group.



Each child can explain the different elements of their construction and the meaning behind them.

Invite the children to dramatize, or tell the story.

Tips:

- For younger children, simplify the construction of the church and use larger pieces. For older children, you can propose the construction of a church with more details, such as stained glass, confessional, bell tower, etc.
- Use books and images of real churches to inspire children. You can also invite a priest or pastor to talk to the children about the faith and the importance of the church.
- Children can draw or paint their Lego church, write a story about a wedding or other religious event in the church, or create a poster inviting people to visit the church.

Additional Considerations:

Differentiation:


Provide additional support or simplified instructions for pupils who may require extra assistance. For advanced pupils, offer extension tasks such as researching further sustainable practices or designing more complex models.

Assessment:

Assess pupils based on their participation and engagement during discussions and hands-on activities. Evaluate the creativity, effort, collaboration, depth of understanding demonstrated in their models, critical thinking, ability to provide constructive feedback and presentation skills.

Curriculum Connections:

This activity integrates:



Environmental Studies (exploration of religious and cultural traditions in the community; understanding world religions, their symbols and practices; learning about the history and social role of churches)

Art (development of creativity and construction skills through LEGO-based building)

Citizenship and Social Development (promotion of respect for religious and cultural diversity, tolerance, and interreligious dialogue)

Language (development of oral and written communication through project descriptions and story creation)



SDG Connections:

- **SDG 4** - Quality Education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- **SDG 16** - Peace, Justice and Solid Institutions: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- **SDG 17** - Partnerships for the Goals: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development by mobilising all.

Note: Although this theme is not directly related to a specific Sustainable Development Goal, the activity can promote values such as respect, tolerance and understanding of cultural and religious diversity.

