

Religious Literacy Engagement Principles

Intentionality through Inclusive Practice: We are committed to the following Engagement Principles.

Prioritizing Accuracy & Representation	<p>We avoid factual errors, stereotypes, and biases in all content and materials.</p> <p>We ensure that people and traditions are portrayed with dignity, including in visuals and background details.</p> <p>We pay close attention to language, names and labels, skin tone, cultural signifiers, and religious symbols.</p> <p>We inform our work based on the lived experiences of those represented, through ongoing collaboration and dialogue.</p>
Presenting Religion as Multidimensional	<p>We represent the variety that exists within communities, not just between them.</p> <p>We avoid tokenism and oversimplified portrayals of identity.</p> <p>We portray the different ways that individuals and families may observe traditions.</p> <p>We highlight the way religion, spirituality, and beliefs manifest in everyday life, in addition to holidays, acknowledgements, and special occasions.</p> <p>We frame religious practices as dynamic and lived, not just historical or fixed.</p>
Highlighting Religion as an Element of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion	<p>We recognize religion, spirituality, and secular worldviews as valid and important aspects of identity.</p> <p>We never present one tradition or belief system as the “default,” “right,” or “only” way.</p> <p>We cultivate empathy by encouraging children and caregivers to explore both similarities and differences across beliefs.</p> <p>We acknowledge the ways in which beliefs can uphold systems of oppression and be a source of division, as well as a source of solace and community.</p>
Supporting Adults and Caregivers	<p>We provide resources and use engagement tools to help adults engage in conversations about religion and belief with children.</p> <p>We create space for shared curiosity, even when adults don’t have all the answers.</p>
Maintaining Appeal, Accessibility, & Relevance	<p>We create experiences that are joyful, meaningful, and relevant for children and their caregivers, rooted in BCM’s ethos of play, creativity, and exploration.</p> <p>We ensure content is developmentally appropriate and welcoming to people of all belief backgrounds - religious, spiritual, secular, or questioning.</p>