

Title: Belonging	Year: Years 1 and 2	Timing: 1/2 lessons
Links: CPR1 CPR2 CSC3		
Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To know that babies are particularly precious • To think about the importance of belonging in a family setting • To find out about different ways of welcoming children into communities • To think about the use of symbols in welcoming ceremonies 		
Questions for reflection: How were you welcomed into your family when you were born? How do Christians welcome people into the family of the church? What is important about water in baptism? What does your name mean, and why was it chosen for you?		
Activities and experiences: Either choose the story of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, and link it with the Christian ceremony of baptism, or choose the story of Jesus welcoming the little children, and link it with thanksgiving services for the gift of a child. You will need to arrange in advance for a mother and baby to visit, and to talk about the way in which that child was welcomed into the family. It is helpful if the mother could also talk about christening, and why the parents think that this is important for their child. As homework before the day, send home a little questionnaire (and explanation) about how the children were themselves welcomed and given their name. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell the children that they are going to have a special visitor into the classroom and that you are going to give them clues about the visitor's identity. Have a selection of baby items in a drawstring bag, and take them out one by one. Who would cuddle a soft rabbit/ drink from a bottle/ wear a tiny babygro? Plan a welcome for the visitors to make them feel at home, and plan some of the questions that the children can ask, especially the <i>why</i> questions ~ <i>Why</i> was the baby welcomed in this way? etc. 2. Welcome the mother and baby into the classroom. Give the children the opportunity to find out about this baby's welcome, and to share their own welcoming experiences. Make it clear that there are many ways to welcome a baby, not necessarily with ceremony. 3. Find out whether the parents are planning to have the baby christened and why it is important to them. 4. Find out about the baby's name and what it means. Give the children an opportunity to find out the meaning of their own names. 5. Tell the story of the baptism of Jesus from a children's bible, and explain how Christians baptise people in order to follow Jesus. 6. Use the site www.request.org.uk/infants/milestonesinlife on the Smartboard to show a christening, or use Dottie and Buzz video (C4learning) which has an excellent episode on baptism. Talk about the meaning of the water and the sign of the cross. 7. Make a display of water drops using sponge printing on neutral paper, and words on pale blue paper. The words should reflect what the children have learnt about christening ~ wash, new, promise etc. Add pictures from the visit and the children's names with their meanings. If you have children from a faith other than Christianity, they may bring items from their own welcoming ceremony. Assessment: Make enough sponge-printed water drops for each child to have one to stick on their RE book. Caption the drop with ~ What special words would you say if you could baptise a baby? and scribe the answers underneath.		

