

## Spiritual Vocabulary & Early Fluency is Important



The popularity of emoji's are a great example of our very human need to understand emotions and feelings and have a vocabulary to describe complex ideas. So too with spirituality and faith. We need a language, the earlier the better, to speak of that which so often feels too big to talk about. In the psalms we hear how children perhaps are naturally inclined to speak "God talk"

### *Psalm 8 translation-The Message*

*God, brilliant Lord,  
yours is a household name.  
Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you;  
toddlers shout the songs  
That drown out enemy talk,  
and silence atheist babble.*

Berryman speaks most eloquently to this topic in *Becoming Like a Child* page 82 "We need to give children the gift of classical Christian language to help them create ultimate meaning from what they experience of God's presence. They need to discover the art of speaking Christian fluently at an early age when they are attuned to language learning. This seems counter intuitive for two reason. First most people's experience of God Christian education involves learning that God is a noun and reducing God's enormous mystery to coloring theological cartoons or seeking God on an electronic screen. The second reasons is the many people do not realize how complex this language domain is. Fluency in Christian language uses parable., sacred story, and liturgical action to make meaning, but i also keep s the silent knowing of children alive. They learn to use their bodies, minds, and spirits to become mystical theologians if they have the opportunity for regular spiritual practice."