

A TRAINING WORKSHOP OR CONFERENCE KEYNOTE FROM JIM GILL

A JOYOUS WAY TO LEARN!

Promote Readiness, Literacy, Math Development and Inclusion Through Active Music Play

Thirty-five years ago Jim Gill picked up a banjo excited by the idea that music, apart from the joy it brings, is a *great way to play* and a great way to *help young children learn*.

In this energizing session Jim shares examples of his award-winning songs and musical books that combine opportunities for active movement with word play and rhymes. Teachers and care providers will appreciate the finger plays and singable songs that they can share with children immediately after the workshop.

These practical ideas inspire play, but Jim also reminds early childhood professionals *why* we play. Jim discusses:

- How music play inspires young children not only to move, but to *regulate* their movements... not only to sing, but to *make connections* between the words they sing and the printed word and the world of numbers.
- How music play can help to create an inclusive environment for children with special needs and from all different backgrounds.
- How a music video can be *initially* used to inspire play, but that the best early childhood practices are implemented when caring adults are actively involved in sharing music play with young children.

Early childhood educators will leave the session inspired to celebrate with new songs and playful literacy activities.

Even more, they will leave the session thinking about new strategies to help children learn!

Jim Gill is a musician and author with singular credentials among children's artists. Jim spent twenty years directing programs in music play for families with children with special needs in the Chicago area. His particular writing style—combining word play and movement opportunities into songs—was developed through this work. Jim completed his graduate studies in child development at the Erikson Institute of Chicago with a special emphasis on the study of play. His work experience and studies have led Jim to create each of his recordings and books as an opportunity for playful interactions between a child and a caring adult.

Jim recently released a 3-CD collection of his “most celebrated songs”—the active musical games that teachers and care providers most often share with children. Jim is also the author of two award-winning children's books. Over the years he has received five awards from the American Library Association for his publications and releases.

