

Jim Gill

Jim Gill is a musician and author with unique credentials among children's artists. Jim is a child development specialist, having completed his graduate studies in child development at the Erikson Institute of Chicago with a special emphasis on the study of play. For this reason, each of Jim's recordings and books is created as an opportunity for playful interactions between a child and a caring adult.

In addition to his studies, Jim's 20 years of experience creating and leading play groups for families with children with special needs has informed his work. Jim led weekly music play programs at numerous therapeutic and family support agencies in the Chicago area. His unique writing style—combining word play and movement opportunities into songs—was inspired by this work. Just as important, his strategies to promote family involvement in his concerts were developed through these weekly sessions.

Jim has released seven award-winning CDs of music play for young children that are favorites in family rooms, classrooms and playrooms. He is also the author of two children's books. His latest CD, *A Soup Opera*, is a sing-along opera inspired by concerts that Jim performs with symphony orchestras.

Jim speaks to early childhood educators, care providers and children's librarians across the country about the many benefits of play in young children's lives. Jim is unique in his ability to combine his artistry with advocacy for early literacy development. He shares both at each inspiring and joyous session.



Conference Sessions

Friday, April 25

8:30-10:00 AM

May There Always Be Music and Books!

1:00-2:30 PM

Before They are Ready to Rhyme