

## Joanie Calem

**Joanie Calem** is a parent, teacher, songwriter, performer and disability awareness advocate. She has been creating music and teaching people of all ages since 1983. Her goal in both her performances and teaching is to invite audiences to share a sense of creating community through singing and playing together.

When she became a parent, Joanie turned from music-making to children and family concerts, but continued writing and performing adult material as well, particularly about the experience of parenting. Joanie has two children, one who has autism. In addition to the unique parenting that one has to develop when shepherding a child with autism, she has spent many years teaching music in inclusive classrooms, developing systems to help everyone feel safe and welcome.

Joanie leads “concert-conversations” and workshops for parents, teachers, librarians, community groups and schools, sharing original songs as starting points for discussions on how to build welcoming communities that allow room for the increasing neurodiversity in our world.



### Conference Sessions

Friday, April 25

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

But First Do No Harm - Songs and Stories to Create (And Maintain) Compassionate, Inclusive Classrooms

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

It's Cool to be Kind, Teaching Compassion Through Songs, Stories and Music Games

Saturday, April 26

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Different is Not Dangerous - A Musical Trip Around the World