

LITTLE KIWIS NATURE PLAY CONFERENCE 2021

Musical Play in the Natural Environment with Julie Wylie, MNZM



Music is a universal language of emotion, self-expression, connection and sensory learning. In all cultures, nature provides inspiration for creativity. The motivations for people to make music in a variety of ways emerge from a combination of developmental and social factors. The basic sensorimotor skills that infants need to develop for a whole range of human behaviours (the control of timing, vocalisation, and movement) are vital to general human development, and are also the fundamental components of music making. The development of those skills in a specifically musical context, provides intrinsic rewards through emotional engagement, social facilitation, identity formation, and the exercise of 'mastery' and self-esteem.

Children learn through their sensory interactions with nature. When we introduce them to the wonders of nature and help them to look, listen, create and play, we are showing them how to be observant of the world around them, to listen to environmental sounds, to be aware of how things sound, look, feel, smell and taste. Through nurturing, creative musical experiences, children learn to become sensitive, creative, and aesthetically aware.

Through creative musical play, children learn to sing about anything and everything, to construct and to move in a variety of ways and to problem-solve. They can dream about new possibilities, imagine and pretend. Children learn how to be flexible in their approaches to new situations, and to be independent. Through nature, they can become original in their thoughts about things. Musically and artistically, they see possibilities for new ways of creating, singing, saying, moving and playing. They learn to listen, and to analyse sounds such as high/low pitches, and they start to hear the elements of music in nature and incorporate these music elements into their own play.

In this workshop:

- We will go on a Sound Hunt.
- We will explore being in the music moment together.
- We will improvise and create songs together using the natural materials we found.
- We will explore the elements of music with these natural materials.

Aims:

- To help participants follow children musically.
- To inspire creativity through listening, observing, and feeling the sensory, spiritual and emotional benefits of outdoor exploration.
- To help participants understand and use the elements of music in relation to their body and with use of natural materials.
- To explore the natural environment musically and discover how nature calms and regulates.

Three recorded songs:

- "What's in the Box?" (Track 4 from Julie Wylie's CD "Do the Bean Bag Bop").
- "Down at the Beach" (Track 6 from Julie Wylie's CD "Do the Bean Bag Bop").
- "Elke's Song" (Track 7 from Julie Wylie's CD "Teddy Bear's Tango"). Feel free to change the words to suit any occasion.

For further information and ideas about Musical Play go to juliewyliemusic.com.