

# Energizing Conference Keynotes and Training Workshops for Early Childhood Professionals

**JIM GILL**  
Child Development Specialist  
Singer/Songwriter Author

JIM GILL has the rare ability to present an energetic keynote or training workshop that is balanced with information from both theory and actual practice.

He has made a career out of studying and promoting an activity that seems simple, yet is critical to young children's development—PLAY. Although best known for his recordings of music play and his musical picture book for children, Jim Gill's primary interest in music has been as a context for playful interactions between caregivers and children. Jim has a Master's Degree in Child Development from the Erikson Institute of Chicago.

Participants leave Jim's keynotes and workshops with both a repertoire of activities in music play and a renewed respect for play itself. This makes the session exciting to those looking for new ideas and activities as well as those looking to reflect on their current practices. Jim involves everyone in his humorous play creations and then, within this context, leads them to consider:

- The many connections between music play and literacy.
- How to build connections between music play and literacy through singing and bookmaking.
- How a play-based program creates an inclusive environment for children with special needs.
- Play as a context to observe and assess children's abilities across all domains of development.
- The role of the adult in supporting children's play.

Whether the format is an hour-long keynote or a full day workshop, Jim Gill does more than merely present his ideas.

He engages the room in play and, more importantly, in thinking about play.

Early childhood teachers, special educators, early interventionists and parents will appreciate Jim's ability to refer to ideas from his educational background while relating experiences working with children of all ability levels from 6 months to 10 years old.

## ABOUT JIM GILL

Jim Gill's recordings of music play are used in classrooms and playrooms throughout the country. They have received *Parents Choice Awards* and have been honored as *Notable Children's Recordings* by the **American Library Association**.

Jim's picture book, *May There Always Be Sunshine*, received the *2002 Book Award* from Philadelphia's Please Touch® Children's Museum and has inspired children and teachers to create handmade books of their own based on Jim's original.

For the past eighteen years Jim Gill has directed a unique program in family music play for agencies serving children with special needs. Jim's programming is family-based, play-based, and serves children of all ability levels. Jim's songs and ideas originate in this hands-on work with children and families.

Jim has keynoted at: Michigan AEYC Conference, California Head Start Association Conference, Illinois "Sharing a Vision" Early Childhood Conference, Texas Kindergarten Conference, Indiana Library Federation Conference and many others.

Jim's thoughts on music and play were featured in the public television documentary "10 Things Every Child Needs."



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

**JIM GILL, INC.**

P.O. Box 2263 Oak Park, IL 60303-2263  
phone 708.763.9864 fax 708.763.9888

Web site: [www.jimgill.com](http://www.jimgill.com)

email: [jimgillmusic@earthlink.net](mailto:jimgillmusic@earthlink.net)