DR AMANDA NILAND, INSTITUTE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD, MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

MUSIC IN EARLY INTERVENTION: PARTICIPATING IN THE MUSICAL LIFE OF CHILDHOOD

Drawing from ongoing practitioner research in a family music group at Plumtree Early Childhood Intervention, Marrickville this session will focus on the value of music in young children’s lives: the joy of shared music making, as well as the ways in which music can support the social inclusion and development of children who experience disability.

In many communities today a range of early childhood activities are available for families: playgroups, story times, sports programs and dance or music groups. While it may generally be assumed that these would be inclusive, families with children who experience disability often encounter barriers to joining such programs for a range of reasons. Plumtree Early Childhood Intervention, as well as providing therapy services and inclusive early childhood education, runs a number of play, music and dance groups, so that families can participate in the types of activities that are important for social inclusion and are often taken for granted in the wider community. Part of Plumtree’s mission is to support families in being able to participate in the life of their local community. The welcoming setting and supportive relationships typical of the Plumtree groups provides a stepping-stone for families towards participation in other community activities.

I use the ORIM model (Nutbrown, 2011), a framework for inclusive creative arts in early childhood, to analyse the children’s musical responses and interactions during the family music group. Through this I explore the value of music for young children’s development, as well as their right to participate in musical life of their community.


BIOGRAPHY

Dr Amanda Niland is an early childhood teacher and tertiary educator. Amanda has always been fascinated by young children’s interest in the arts. This has inspired her to develop research projects in arts education as well as to write songs, poems and stories for young children. Her aim as a lecturer in early childhood is to inspired pre-service teachers to nurture young children’s development in the creative arts.

Amanda has a keen interest in social inclusion and inclusive education and is involved with community music groups in an early intervention setting. Amanda is also an author of children’s picture books.

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