

## *Giving Love-Bringing Joy*

*Hand Gesture Games and Lullabies in the Mood of the Fifth*

By Wilma Ellersiek, translated and edited by Lyn and Kundry Willwerth.

Reviewed by Andrea Sutherland. Published by WECAN, 2003.

The nurturing, creative Ellersiek games and lullabies have been graciously translated and published into English and are a beautiful, inspiring and loving gift! This translation is a gift of love and joy from Kundry and Lyn Willwerth and their son, Roland. From their hearts and hands, we receive this beautiful and long-awaited book about the touch and hand gesture games of Wilma Ellersiek.

Wilma Ellersiek turned her attention to creating games and play for young children to counter the growing impulses of early intellectual learning in the late 1960s, after pursuing a profession devoted to acting, speaking and Dalcroze eurhythmics. Out of decades of loving work and research have sprung the Ellersiek games and lullabies. *Giving Love-Bringing Joy* is truly rich in bringing nurturing, gentle and loving tools into the hands of parents, teachers, grandparents and caregivers. These valuable tools soften and even heal the challenges imposed upon young children as they bump along the social conditions of today's world (media, intellectual precociousness, excessive stimulation, technology, modern diets).

This is a book of guidance with informative text leading the reader into truly reverent care-giving and parenting. Included are: *Careses and Gesture Games* (tender gentle caressing touch and gesture games that nurture the child, providing a gentler path into life upon the earth), *Language* (the creative, artistic spirit of sound and speech), *Imitation* (healthy development of imitation through love, warmth, joy and archetypal images), *Movement* (warmth and love "stream through our arms and hands") and *Lullabies* (music and song in the mood of the fifth complement the spirituality of the infant and young child).

There is a richness within the pages of this book to aid the loving work of all who strive to help a young child find a place of security and balance in our complex world. The background is thoroughly established for the full effectiveness of the games. By applying this and by bringing it

consciously into one's daily life with infants and young children, not only are the children nourished, but the parent, teacher, or care-giver is as well. The games are beautifully illustrated, clearly and fully described. As an apprentice of Kundry Willwerth, I have had the experience of witnessing first-hand the joy and the healing qualities that these creative and archetypal games bring to young children. The titles of a few of the games and lullabies should whet your appetite: *Wiggle-waggle*, *Aye-a-Bye-A*, *Soft as Down*, *Glitz Glitz and Thaws Away*, *A Little Bird Sits in a Tree*, *All the Dear Stars* and *Rocka-Rocka-Bye-A*.

Purchase this book and settle in—absorb the valuable lessons and enjoy the visual feast of the beautiful images from the German edition. Give yourself time to digest the archetypal and imaginative world of nature—animals, wind, stars, snow, rain—all accompanied by movement, rhythmical and artistic speech/music, and hand gestures of loving warmth. Practice, practice, practice, following the guiding words and illustrations of gifted teachers. Then hold your littlest loved one on your lap, or join your circle of young ones and share with them these games that just may allow you to join in the work of the angels protecting and loving our smallest of humanity. Thank you, Kundry, Lyn and Roland Willwerth and thank you, Wilma Ellersiek! This book is a priceless gem! The only recommendation I can offer to improve this gift is that in the second printing a stronger binding be considered essential. This is a book to cherish, share, and carry with you to meetings, gatherings, home and school. A hard-cover or stronger binding would support the long and active life that this book deserves.

Andrea Sutherland worked with Kundry Willwerth at Hillside Children's Garden, (in Ithaca, New York) which has produced a song CD to accompany the book entitled **Giving Love-Bringing Joy—A Learning CD**, available through WECAN or [hillside@odyssey.net](mailto:hillside@odyssey.net).