

Wings of Childhood

A New CD of Nursery Rhymes for Modern Times



Wings of Childhood is a collection of songs written to inspire movement and development in young children from 3 - 7 years of age.

The songs have been written by Michael Lazarev, a Russian Paediatrician and Musician, who has developed a programme of musical stimulation to promote children's development from before birth up to 7 years of age. His method is being used in 140 cities in Russia including 1000 kindergartens in Turkestan. Studies following the progress of children whose mothers have used the programme have shown the children have more advanced coordination and language skills and there are fewer children suffering from bronchial asthma.

Wings of Childhood brings together for the first time the musical talent of Michael Lazarev with the developmental work undertaken by Sally Goddard Blythe at The Institute for Neuro-Physiological Psychology in Chester (INPP). Sally Goddard Blythe is Director of INPP and an internationally known author and lecturer on child development, her last book being "The Well Balanced Child" (Hawthorn Press).

INPP devises special movement programmes to improve children's attention, balance and coordination and help to get them "ready" for school. INPP also offers individual programmes to help older children overcome problems at school.

The song collection can simply be enjoyed as a delightful collection of songs for children to sing along with their parents. It can also be

used as the basis for Music and Movement programmes, encouraging children to act out through movement the “characters” in the songs. The animal characters have been specially selected based on developmental principles of movement. Practice of these early stages of movement can help to prepare children for more advanced skills later on.

There is an accompanying booklet which can be purchased separately, containing the words of the songs for parents and teachers who would like to teach children to sing the songs. The booklet also contains preliminary suggestions for movement activities which can be used to accompany each song. As children become more familiar with the words of the songs the movement activities can be developed in individual ways.

The songs have been recorded using Bass and Soprano voices to provide a wide range of sound frequencies. Research has shown that a child’s listening environment in the first 3 - 5 years of life provides the basis for speech, language and reading later on. Children should be encouraged to sing along with the songs because use of the child’s own voice helps to train sound discrimination. The second part of the CD contains a charming medley of piano improvisations on the songs to which children and their parents can add their own words and movements. This is an activity for fathers as well as mothers.

Dr Michael Lazarev is a professor of medicine and Head of the Children’s Rehabilitative Medicine in Moscow. He is author of SONATAL (Sound and Birth). Further information about the SONATAL programme can be found at www.sonatal.ru.

Further information about The Institute for Neuro-Physiological Psychology (INPP) can be found at www.inpp.org.uk



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