



Meet Kathy Poelker



Kathy Poelker received her degree in Music Education from Northwestern University School of Music. Ms. Poelker is internationally recognized for her work in Early Childhood Music Education. She is an outstanding communicator, university lecturer, keynote speaker, motivator, author, consultant, children's recording artist, and composer/author of over 150 songs and 30 books in three languages. Kathy's critically acclaimed songs, recordings, and books in English, Spanish, and Hmong are used in hundreds of classrooms across the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, New Zealand and Australia. Hundreds of thousands of young children, early childhood teachers, and families have enjoyed singing and participating in Kathy's songs and engaging musical activities for over 25 years. Kathy reaches the heart and mind of all, young and old alike.

Kathy's teacher-training workshops and seminars delight all who attend. She presents motivating classroom activities, methods, and techniques using Song, Movement, Musical Imagery, Music Games, Drama, and Dance, and more importantly, Kathy explains the powerful theory and brain research behind these activities. Teachers benefit from attending Kathy's workshops that offer many powerful suggestions for integrating Music, Movement, Language, Literacy, and Sensory-Motor into the early childhood classroom curriculum.

Every year from 1988 through 2009-2010, Kathy has won an *ASCAP Popular Award* for her children's educational music used in schools and programs across the country. Her delightful songs and books were selected by American Drug Stores and Sylvania Corporation for special children's health programs and children's emergent literacy programs. Kathy won the prestigious 2004 *OPC "Publisher's Award"* for her musical recording and book collection entitled "*Images of Christmas for Children.*"

Kathy is renowned for her published works of music CDs and instructional teacher guides. She has enabled countless teachers - musical and "non-musical" - become more successful integrating music and movement experiences into their classroom curriculum plans. Some of Kathy Poelker's published works include six delightful early childhood song collections titled "*Look At Me!*", "*Look At the Holidays!*", "*Look At My World,*" "*Amazing Musical Moments!*", "*Kathy Poelker Sings!*", and the Spanish release titled "*Canciones y juegos para aprender.*" These materials, published by *Look At Me Productions, Inc.*, help bring music into the lives of young children with great educational benefit. Kathy's popular "*Snuggle Ups*" Series of sing-along/read-along books brings children and parents together in an exciting program that helps foster the love of reading and music while simultaneously strengthening family bonding times.

Among Kathy's many publications and recordings is the popular "*Look At Me! Sing & Read Series*" of *Musical Big Books* for early childhood classrooms, published in English, Spanish, and Hmong editions. This series provides sing-along/read-along experiences that promote the integration of language, literacy, music, and movement.

Kathy Poelker composed and arranged the musical exercise settings for "*Learning With A SMILE!*", a developmental sensory-motor program. Published in both English and Spanish editions, the "*SMILE*" program has benefitted thousands of young children in their overall development and readiness. This program meets the needs of both typically developing children and those with special needs. Kathy Poelker is regularly invited to present keynote addresses and staff development workshops throughout the country to conferences, groups, and agencies who work with special children. Recently she was the keynote speaker for the ASSEC (Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference) in February 2010 in Anchorage AK. For ASSEC 2010, Kathy also wrote and taught a course for University of Alaska entitled "*Building Better Brain Power!*" Special education teachers from throughout the state of Alaska came to Kathy's presentations. Kathy Poelker also teaches a number of different university credit courses for Loyola Marymount University.

A prolific composer and author, Kathy has composed choral selections, published by Jenson Publications (the classroom music specialist), OCP Publications, and WORD MUSIC. Kathy's choral music for children and adults is widely accepted and aired nationally by radio stations across the country. Three additional recordings with books include *"Images of Christmas for Children," "I Call To You,"* and *"Praisin' Him"* which are published for Christian schools and early childhood church and Sunday School programs.

As a popular guest lecturer and consultant, Kathy Poelker is a renowned workshop leader and presenter with university and college early childhood conferences, kindergarten associations, Associations for the Education of Young Children, ESL/Bilingual groups, special education groups, and music education conferences throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada. Kathy was invited as a guest lecturer to share her recordings and music internationally with the Australian and New Zealand schools. She also was a guest lecturer at Auckland Teachers College in Auckland, New Zealand where her presentations and music were enthusiastically received.

The Hawaii State Dept. of Education also invited Kathy Poelker to work with more than 200 reading and music specialists to present strategies for the effective integration of Music with Language in the early childhood classroom. In addition to these consulting opportunities and invitations, Kathy has also presented staff development workshops throughout Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands for over 25 years. In one month alone, Kathy provided staff development workshops that trained more than 1200 Head Start teachers, directors, and assistants throughout the cities and municipalities of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. She is repeatedly invited back to give inservice training and staff development workshops because her dynamic presentations are well respected, well received, widely known - and rarely forgotten! Throughout her career, Kathy has been referred to as a *"Master Teacher"* and *"Teachers' Teacher."* A truly experienced classroom teacher, Kathy has taught early childhood classroom methods from prekindergarten to college level courses. Kathy's many years of practical musical experiences are coupled with her talents and genuine love of music, making her presentations motivational, educational, and unforgettable, with "theory" and "practice" combined in an enjoyable learning experience for all who attend! She reaches her audience and transforms their understanding and appreciation of music and movement!

In addition to her musical accomplishments, Kathy Poelker founded *Look At Me Productions, Inc.* in 1979. She is President, Senior Consultant, writer, and producer. She has published over 60 products for early childhood classrooms, most of which she has designed, written, and recorded.

Most recently, Look At Me Productions launched its *"S.O.S. Start Out Smart! Program."* This program offers activities and materials for teachers and parents to use in working with young children to better prepare them for the school experience. *"S.O.S. Start Out Smart! Program"* addresses children's readiness skills which are foundational to future school success.

All who meet Kathy Poelker instantly learn she believes *"You can teach everything through music!"* She believes music to be a powerful "gift" from God that reaches all - young and old alike - those who are able and those with special life challenges. Kathy believes she has been called to teach, and this has been her life's ambition to share the gift of music with all she meets, children and adults. Kathy openly shares how she uses music for work, for play, for relaxation and stress management, and for worship. For her entire adult life Kathy has served on the Worship Team as a vocal soloist and Worship Leader. Kathy Poelker worships at Harvest Bible Chapel in Elgin IL with her husband, John. She is blessed with three grown sons and their wives, and with two beautiful grandsons with whom she delights in sharing the powerful joy and love of music in everyday life!