

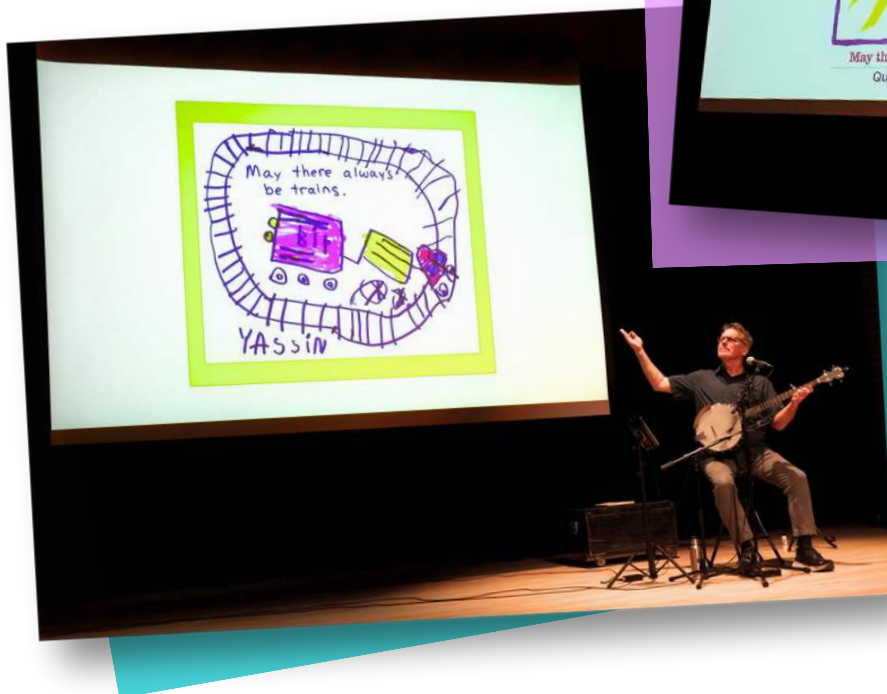
A SING-ALONG, READ-ALONG, and WISH-ALONG Concert with Jim Gill!!

Jim Gill's family concerts have always been about providing opportunities for young children and family members to sing and play together. This two-part event takes it one step further: promoting language and literacy development and social emotional development through a playful writing activity.

Jim Gill is an author and musician. He is also a child development specialist, completing his graduate studies at the Erikson Institute of Chicago with an emphasis on the study of play. He picked up a banjo 40 years ago to accompany musical games that he was creating for developmental play groups for families. After releasing ten CDs, two musical books, and accumulating millions of music streams, he has not put that banjo down!

In the first part of the event, the concert, Jim strums energizing rhythms while everyone sings, claps and dances along to his silly and inspiring musical games. Each concert is more than a show to watch – it is an opportunity for family play!

The concert ends with a read-along and sing-along of one of Jim's musical books, *May There Always Be Sunshine*, enhanced by the addition of pages that children have created over the years.



This inspiring ending to Jim's concert provides a perfect jumping-off point to a "wish-along" family art and literacy activity, based on *May There Always be Sunshine*. Jim introduces the project by leading a spirited, musical discussion with children and their families to encourage them to share ideas about what they most value in the world. Then, with the help of family members, these ideas become words on a page, ready for children to illustrate. The exercise provides a perfect model for continued family engagement at home.



Librarians will appreciate that ALL five practices that they promote in their programming (*talk, sing, read, write and play!*) are emphasized and exercised in this joyful event.

Family members, educators and care providers will appreciate that this activity, which requires only paper, crayons, markers and a bit of caring adults' time and attention, can be continued at home and in the classroom!



To learn more about Jim's work, visit his website: www.jimgill.com
To learn more about booking a concert and literacy event for your library, school or community, send Jim an email: jimgill@jimgill.com