

31st Infancy Institute — June 19, 20, 21, 2018

Music and Mindfulness



Institute Highlights

Keynote

Kaja Weeks

Keys to Musical Interaction with Young Children – Vibrant, Relational, and Developmental



Music captivates children in almost every imaginable setting. As mind and brain growth meld with early experience, musical sounds offer natural, effective sparks for motivation, social relatedness and learning that engage with unique identity. This presentation’s foundation is comprised of comprehensive perspectives about overall and musical development as well as early relationships. Additional discussion focuses on supportive measures and practical, playful implementations relevant to those invested in early education, intervention and caregiving.

Kaja Weeks is a clinic-based Developmental Music Educator, author, and mentor in the field of interactive music for young children. Her career began over forty years ago with a degree in music education and as a classical singer, which she methodically integrated with training in human/infant development and certification as a Fellow, Trainer and Practitioner of the Floortime and DIR (Developmental, Individual, Relational) model created by Stanley I. Greenspan, MD and Serena Wieder, PhD. Her innovative approach — The Relational Voice — benefits infants, toddlers and preschoolers, particularly those with special needs. Ms. Weeks has worked at an integrated

clinic in conjunction with therapists in the Washington, DC region since 2002 and has a lively practice of teacher, caregiver and clinician training internationally. Formerly, Ms. Weeks was Associate Chair of the Early Childhood Music Department at Levine School of Music; Musical Facilitator at the National Institute of Health-Children’s Inn; and President of the Greater Washington, DC chapter of the Early Childhood Music and Movement Association. Ms. Weeks has studied with music neuroscientist Jessica Phillips-Silver, and her scholarly ideas about communicative musicality within the developmental path of young children have been presented in numerous journal articles, lectures, and training in the United States and Canada.