

A Word from the Publisher

When I met the vivacious Darlene Abbott she was excitedly telling about an interactive program she had just completed with her three- through five-year olds called *The Christmas Journey*. After the preschool choirs at my own church had such a great experience with *The Christmas Journey* I asked Darlene to develop two similar programs. Together we created the songs for *The P. J. (Prayers to Jesus) Party* and *Here's the Church!* then Darlene fleshed out lesson plans and activities. The result is *Preschool Praise'ntations*.

In my opinion, *Preschool Praise'ntations* is the perfect alternative to music that is often too difficult, too low for the preschooler's voice or a part of programs that are too stressful for the preschool child. Consequently the 20 songs in this book are easy to sing, fun to move to and can be shared in one of three formats:

ROOM TO ROOM Praise'ntation - where small groups of children and their guests move from one themed room to another while teachers and workers lead them through songs and activities the children have already experienced in their lesson plans. One parent participates at a singing circle with each child as their costumed teachers provide continuity dialogue from the Teacher's Book. Guest chairs are provided in each room along with a camera area for video and photo ops.

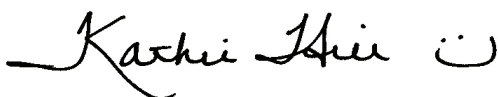
IN THE ROUND Praise'ntation - where costumed teachers and children share their songs with movement and activities from their lesson plans in a large singing circle. In this "interactive open house" format one parent joins the circle to participate with their child and guests observe from "in the round" seating or designated camera areas.

STAGE Praise'ntation - where costumed children present their songs for family and guests in an age-appropriate environment such as a children's worship area, chapel or large classroom. Teachers or other adults provide continuity dialogue from the Kid's CD.

The Christmas Journey obviously introduces children and their guests to the Christmas season, but since *Preschool Praise'ntations* includes two non-seasonal programs, you can begin the curriculum at any time of year. *The P. J. (Prayers to Jesus) Party* makes a great late winter or early spring emphasis and a late spring or summer praise'ntation of *Here's the Church!* will help preschoolers prepare to attend "big church" in the fall. But with all 20 songs interspersed throughout the 20 Lessons Plans, no matter when a child begins attending choir they will still be exposed to every song on their *Preschool Praise'ntation Kid's CD*.

This *Teacher's Book* provides 20 sixty-minute lesson plans based on two large group singing circles and 15 - 20 minutes of small group Table Time activities. By covering only Singing Circle #1 followed by Table Time, each lesson plan can be easily divided into thirty-minute sessions giving you 40 weeks of curriculum! And a special feature of the Teacher's Book are the 12 transitional songs and chants for classroom management along with 54 small Table Time activities, reproducible art, flash cards, worksheets and take-home devotions.

As I tell my son when he asks why I work so late, "these books aren't delivered by the fairies!" So please let us know if our efforts have provided a resource that works for you, as you make your next program a *Preschool Praise'ntation!*

 Kathi Hill ☺