

# wee make music



## Making music, enjoying life!

Remembering how lucky she is and staying connected with what is most important in her life is part of Louise Carlile's considered and caring approach to life, people and family. Louise owns and runs an Early Childhood music and movement school out of Bulimba and New Farm called Wee Make Music. The program is not about entertaining children but rather draws on the child's innate love of music to capture their focus and through age appropriate, sensory-based activities develops fundamental skills with benefits that extend throughout their growing years. The children have fun as they learn.

While on maternity leave from high school teaching Louise and her husband Richard moved to Hawaii for Richard's career. She was still adjusting to motherhood and now faced the challenges of settling into a new country. Louise joined a mother's group known as Baby Hui and through this met an inspiring new friend named Carla Waterfield. Carla was an experienced early childhood music teacher running local classes and Louise took Harriet along as a student. Harriet thoroughly enjoyed the classes and Louise thought the total concept was wonderful.

Louise went on to teach for Carla and just loved what the experience offered. She found an expression of her innate love for music and dance and her passion for education which supported her own personal philosophy of education in early childhood. The experience has also influenced her approach to raising her four children. As Louise had always wanted to run her own business, she established Wee Make Music when they returned to Brisbane five years ago, to run alongside her expanding family.

Louise is more than committed to her family, her beliefs and people in general, and she sleeps happily knowing she is making a concerted effort to make a difference to the people she shares her life with. She shared with peekaboo magazine why she chose to make a business inspired by the childhood music program she experienced in Hawaii.

"First and foremost I just love to share the joy of music with children, but I am passionate about the broad range of educational benefits of the program," she says.

"There has been an enormous amount of research done to show the undeniable benefits of music to complement mathematical and scientific concepts in education," explains Louise.

"Even the simplest of musical concepts are inclusive of

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basic numeracy and literacy concepts," she adds.

While children are exposed to general musical concepts of melody, rhythm, language and movement they are also developing a range of skills in listening, concentration, following instructions, problem solving, working in teams and social etiquette. At the same time parents, families, grandparents, carers and their children share quality time together and experience joy and personal success.

"This whole concept felt right for me – my heart was in it and I felt capable of doing it," explains Louise

In creating Wee Make Music, Louise has combined different early learning teaching philosophies. Admittedly, there are plenty of early childhood music programs available. Louise says the Wee Make Music difference lies in the 'holistic approach' of the program whereby the core musical concepts are incorporated into a curriculum, designed to provide all of the above mentioned benefits through activities and a teaching environment that addresses the developmental needs of the children.

"They enjoy the content because the teaching strategies match their level of development," says Louise.

"With minimal distractions, the classroom environment is warm, caring and supportive which is conducive to learning and also addresses the needs of parents," states Louise.

"Using a combination of philosophies has enabled me to write a curriculum balancing technical skill with fun and enjoyable activities," she adds.

In both the classroom and in life you can see that Louise feels strongly about children developing into responsible, self-reliant citizens and individuals who think for themselves. She also wants her children to understand the value of friendship and community. Wee Make Music provides an opportunity for families to share in the many benefits of music in early childhood, but it also provides social networking among parents and grandparents, nannies and carers.

"Many music class groups meet socially outside of the classroom and remain friends," says Louise who also ensures the positioning of classes is near parks and cafes to support the ease of after class catch-ups.

"I especially love to see new mothers connect with other mums through our baby classes. As the birth of your first baby can be such an overwhelming life change it can be an enormous support to be able to share this with others," she says.

It is personally rewarding for Louise to be able to concentrate on providing a good quality music program paying particular attention to curriculum writing and know that additional social benefits will flow onto participants and the community.

Her business is well supported by her family, as they understand how much enjoyment it brings, all having been or currently going through the program.

"It really is an extension of our family and our approach to life and friends," says Louise.

"My husband Richard is my sounding board for many ideas and we enjoy discussing each other's work and giving each other support," shares Louise.

The business is part-time for Louise around managing their growing family (Harriet, 9, Millicent, 6, Bridget, 3 and Max, 3). Their children are involved in varied music, sporting and dance activities on Saturdays, so Sundays have become very precious family time.

"Our activities together vary from the general favourite of simple play in the backyard to local bike tracks and playgrounds, the Queensland museum or a trip to GOMA – Harriet's favorite," she says.

"But the one constant that we rarely change is sharing a leisurely morning tea. Richard makes the coffee and the varied versions of babyccino, 'cup-of-cino' or hot chocolate and we all sit around chatting about whatever is going on at the time," shares Louise.

"Food and sharing meals within the family or with friends is certainly a favourite way we all like to unwind," Louise adds.

Louise loves that her children have a big backyard and they go down and play for ages creating games and enjoying the grass under their feet. Their house has undergone a lot of changes over the years and beautifully reflects the family, their lifestyle and travels so far. It is very comfortable and enjoyable. Designed to suit a busy family, functionality, efficiency and convenience are very important elements of their home.

"With four children all with their own varied schedules it means the house has to run to a strict routine," says Louise.

"It's an organized home and everyone respects the need to maintain that," she adds..

In Louise's heart the family comes a strong first, and she knows what she has to do to bring the best of herself to the family.

"Sometimes the excitement generated by my business creates the greatest challenge to separating my focus and sharing my time fairly with the family," she admits.

"But I truly believe managing and building Wee Make Music fulfills that part of my person that makes me a much more effective mother and partner," she says.

Louise and Richard take the responsibility of parenting seriously and they are focused on helping their children develop appropriate life skills.

"We consistently encourage them to be independent thinkers," she says.

"Generally they are good listeners and each possess a good ability to concentrate and apply themselves to tasks which sets them up for effective learning. They all have a mind of their own – most of the time that's a good thing! I think we are a good team," she confides.

Naturally, having children changed everything in her life and she credits her life as being much richer as a result. Louise acknowledges mothering as having given her so much of who she now is.

"I definitely look at life through different eyes and feel I have a much broader base of experience feeding my thoughts and decision making, personally, at home and at Wee Make Music" she says.

"Having twins is another parenting experience again. It's very different from having single babies so I feel doubly blessed that I have experienced both, and have survived! In reality Wee Make Music would probably not exist if I wasn't a mother when we moved to Hawaii. It was because of Harriet that I joined the Baby Hui, met Carla and now here we are," she says.

Louise would love to share the joy and the benefits of the program with you and your children and invites you to visit a complimentary class and get a glimpse of what Wee Make Music is all about. You can check out the website at [www.weemakemusic.com.au](http://www.weemakemusic.com.au) for more details.

