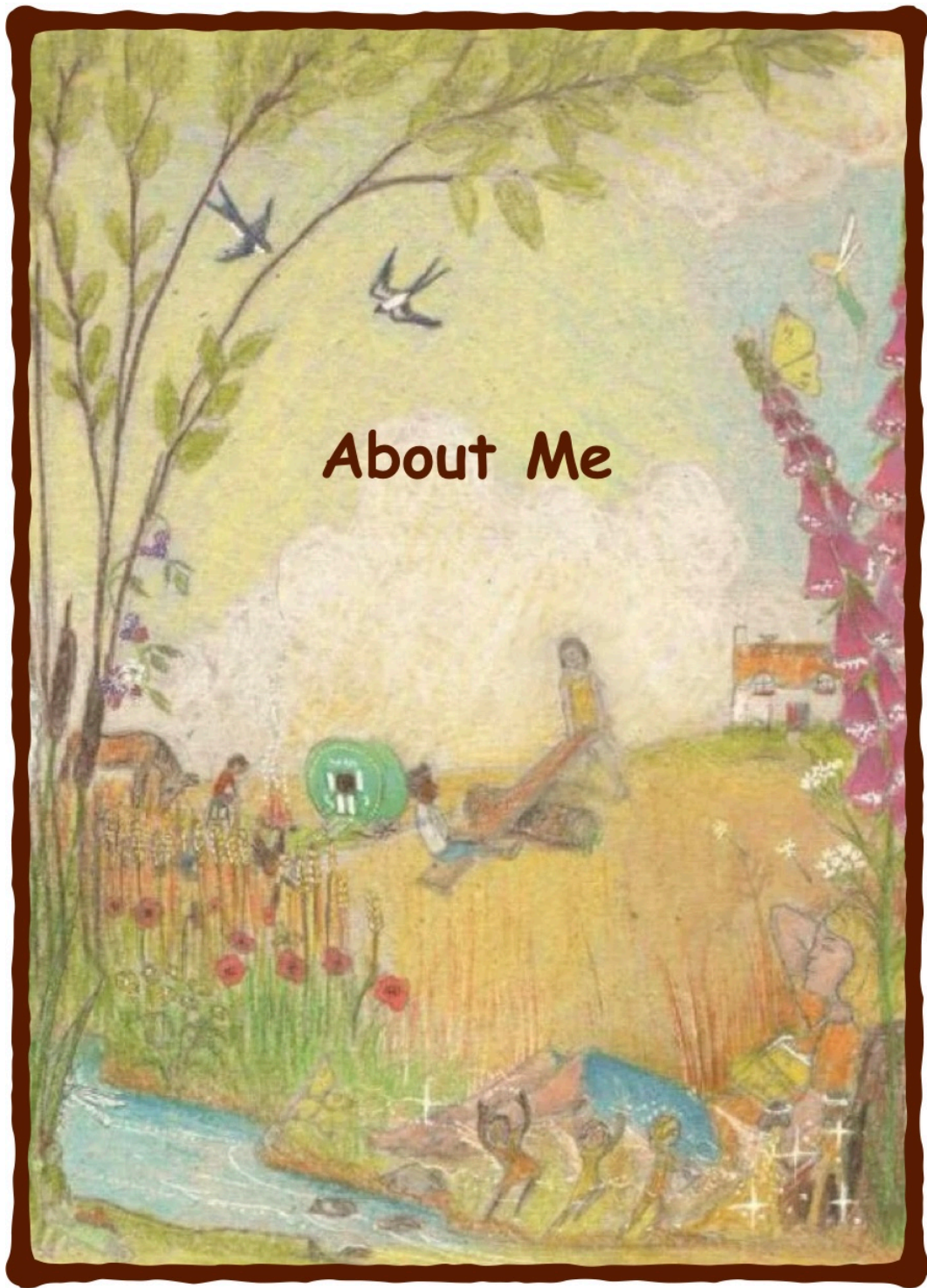


About Me



Mirandy Cook

(She/Her/Hers)

*** Curiosity Facilitator & Fascinated Companion ***



In addition to being the children's Curiosity Facilitator & Fascinated Companion during program hours, I am also the Gardner, Janitor, Family Communication's Coordinator, Business Administrator and Operations Manager for Singing Tree- I do it all :) It is certainly a lot of job titles, but it takes a lot of "behind the scenes" hours to create and maintain the Singing Tree preschool program.

I am passionate about cultivating curiosity, nourishing the imagination, sparking creativity, witnessing wonder, ecstatic exploration, and I am deeply rooted in love. I am honored to work with children.

My own academic interests have included Cultural Anthropology, Mathematics, Philosophy, World Religions, Mythology, Storytelling, and Early Childhood Development . I am a graduate of Goddard College's Self-Directed

Individualized Studies program with a focus on Early Childhood Development, Oral Storytelling, and Theories of Childhood Play. I experienced firsthand the exhilarating journey of self-directed learning, as I worked academically and pragmatically researching what components and environmental conditions best facilitated early learning in children. I am committed to creating positive social change by deeply engaging in my own continuous journey of personal growth and self-reflection. I regularly attend continued education courses and conferences to strengthen and deepen my work.

I have 20+ years of experience of working with children and families both professionally and personally (I am a proud mother of 2). I was a Port Townsend Public Library Advisory Board Member that focused on giving a voice to children and families in the community. I have designed and executed a variety of Port Townsend community youth programs including working in Youth Services at the Port Townsend Public Library (Baby Lap-Sit, Toddler-Time, Preschool Story-Times, educational and art programming for teens, Daycare Delivery Program, PTPL Children's Choir, Just-Right-For-You Early Literacy Program, Prime-Time Family Reading Program in conjunction with Humanities Washington), CedarRoot School summer program, interactive family engagement at local community events (such as Olympic Pride Festival, Cake Picnic, All-County Picnic, Uptown Street Fair), and as the Owner, and Facilitator of Singing Tree. I am certified in Basic First Aid and CPR for infants and children. I regularly attend conferences, and continued education courses to keep my education fresh, and to keep myself inspired in the work that I do.

My lifelong passion with handcraft, has driven the inner urge within me to continuously create things with my own hands in various mediums such as hand sewing, fabric dying, weaving, kumihimo braiding, clay pottery work, silk painting, jewelry making, crochet, hand spinning yarn, painting, wool felting, bio printing and

more! I have worked as a jewelry designer and instructor utilizing various metals, dichroic glass fusing, glass bead making, beadwork, and traditional bead stitch techniques. Currently, I am enamored with wool fiber - working with wool to create wet felted and needle felted creations.

For pure JOY, I love to be outdoors with Mother Nature, smiling, reading, dancing, SINGING, bicycling, hula-hooping, camping, hiking, sound bathing, stretching, practicing "walking meditation" and breath-work, and spending time with my amazing family. I try to see the world as a child - Every found leaf is a treasure, every rock upturned is a new surprise, and every corner is a mystery waiting to be explored.

Why do I call myself a "Facilitator" instead of a "Teacher"?

In many settings, people view education as something that is done to students by teachers. Teachers educate and students become educated. This comes from the perspective that children are a kind of empty vessel to be filled up with knowledge - a paradigm inherently untrusting of children's choices and intentions as a valid educative force. I believe that education is a whole-person, whole-life, experiential process. The motivating forces that make all of us learners include curiosity, playfulness, and sociability. I seek to nurture and support the individual uniqueness of each and every child, by celebrating multiple intelligences, modes of expression, and learning styles.

Facilitators witness.

Facilitators listen.

Facilitators observe.

Facilitators model.

Facilitators reflect.

Facilitators engage.

Facilitators facilitate.

Facilitators hold boundaries.

Facilitators hold space.

Facilitators provide an enriching environment.

Facilitators protect the meaningful time and space for creative play.

Facilitators support children in clarifying their intentions.

Facilitators connect children to the resources and materials they need.

Facilitators help a child reflect on their decisions.

Facilitators help children engage with the community.

Facilitators keep the space safe, and respectful.

Facilitators collaborate with children to develop a powerfully positive culture.

Facilitators model clear communication, collaboration, and authenticity.

Facilitators make sure we go outside every day to enjoy Mother Earth's gifts.

