

...and Songs of Yore: Lullabies & I Love You Rituals

Essential Question: How do we use voice, language, and rhythm to create safe learning spaces?

Core Texts: Selected passages from *Ollie's Odyssey* by William Joyce, and rituals from *I Love You Rituals* by Dr. Becky Bailey.

Billy's favorite toy is Ollie, a stuffed-animal made by Billy's mother that looked like a bear or a rabbit, although it became something all its own. When Billy was born, he had a hole in his heart which caused much concern for his parents. Ollie offered comfort and friendship, and together Billy and Ollie would cope with the journey as Billy left the hospital. In Ollie's heart was a bell sewn into the batting which gave a pleasant jingle every time the toy moved.

Just like language, music is a shared, expressive, inventive, portable way to be together. Lullabies offer this kind of connection and can be likened to Billy's connection with Ollie. Imagine the power of creating a personalized song to share wishes, hopes and dreams with your students, and the powerful connections it can bring to your school family!

Every I Love You ritual is a structure in Conscious Discipline that help build connections with children based on four important ingredients: eye contact, touch, and presence in a playful situation. *"I Love You Rituals are delightful interactions and games that adults can play with children from infancy through eight years of age that send the message of unconditional acceptance. Unconditional acceptance is love."* -Becky Bailey

In the case of Billy and his relationship with his toy, *"My favorite thing in this room, in this house, and in this country and the whole universe of Earth and outer space and everyplace that we don't even know about yet, my favoritest thing is..."* Billy looked at Ollie and smiled and said: "You."

