

TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT NATURE THROUGH FAERIES AND NATURE SPIRITS



By Marcia Maria

Think of the magical moments you have had as you walk through a faerieland of flowers. What have you seen or felt that you can't quite explain? This magical land of enchanted beings is what Jennifer Styblo and I wish to convey to children of all ages in our workshops, "Magical Mornings with the Angels and Faeries."

The idea of faeries captivated Jennifer ever since she was a little girl. She says, "I found the meadow near my house to be a magical place where the Queen Anne's lace waltzed in the breeze, the rabbits played, and, I was sure, the faeries were dancing. We played there often, and I always felt a playful and loving presence. In Girl Scouts, I sat with rapt attention to the stories of the brownies—the elves who help their chosen families by performing services at night—and wished that I could see them. In the backyard pond, mysterious bubbles moved to the surface, and I thought of the water sprites that could be sending signals to each other."

She continues, "Faeries are an example of the magic in nature that surrounds us every day that we, as a society, do not take the time to recognize and appreciate. What better time to discover the faerie world than as an innocent child, whose beliefs have not yet been limited by the society we live in? It is important to learn to connect with the earth, to honor her and steward her, while we are still young."

Jennifer's nine-year-old twins, Kimberly and Christina, like to leave offerings of sweetened milk and honey cereal for the faeries under their hydrangea bush. They also feed the birds and collect acorns for the squirrels, to let the fae folk know that they love and respect the earth and the animals. They would love to meet mermaids, brownies, water sprites, and the fae folk that care for the flowers and animals.

I, too, know and believe in the faerie kingdom, along with all elementals and angels. I reaffirm this each day as I walk through the fields and woods around my home. Slowly an awareness comes upon me, a feeling that I am being watched, secretly. I sense a feeling of shyness by whoever is watching. With each step I take, this awareness builds until a burst of joyful energy washes over me. I have just entered the realm of the field faeries who live near me!

I delight in the exchange of love, joy, and happy energy, along with sensing that I am being invited to play. Keeping this belief alive for children of all ages is important. So often, this connection to fae folk and



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angels is lost as children mature, because most adults think that these nature spirits are make-believe.

When my granddaughter arrived twelve years ago, I made a conscious choice to introduce her to the nature spirits. From the time she was a few months old, we would take walks through the fields and woods, touching plant life to feel their energy. Even at an early age, she expressed that the trees "tickled" her when she hugged them. She would talk about the "shining lights" she saw when we called out to the faeries.

The "Magical Mornings with the Angels and Faeries" workshops were designed for children ages four and older. The workshop begins with a story about faeries or angels, and culminates with a colorful, nature-based craft related to the story. At a recent workshop, we made faerie tambourines out of grapevines and decorated them with flowers, ribbons, and bells.

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Jennifer and I delight in helping children discover the playful, loving, joyful, energy that the faeries and angels share with us. We invite parents and their young children to explore the enchanting world of faeries and angels with us through stories and artistic endeavors. "**Magical Mornings with the Angels and Faeries**" allows us to share our love for children while encouraging their creative talents to come forth.

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(To see a video with beautiful illustrations of the faeries and their world, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KNS-v2iuAA> For more information on "Magical Mornings with the Angels and Faeries," call (419) 283-4344 or send an email from the "contact" page at www.thecosmicgoddess.com.)

