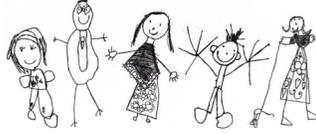


Inspired by Children



Greeting each day with delight
Moment after moment of endless possibilities...
Following curiosity's path
Without worry or destination.

Captivated by a ladybug or a dragonfly
Tempering excitement with gentle reverence...
Time stands still
While they watch in wonder.

Immersed in the joy of creation
Declaring proudly, *"I'm an artist!"* ...
With no need for acclaim
Or fear of judgment.

Feeling the intensity of each moment
Sadness and anger overflow, then dissolve...
Forgiveness is unspoken
Communicated with a hug or a smile.

Speaking the truth
Without hesitation or social constraints...
"It's not fair" "Everyone's skin is different" "We all have hearts"
Confused by the discomfort their words create.

Asking the questions with no easy answers
Of life and death, the "why" of creation...
Sharing wisdom and insights
That surprise and give pause.

Inviting us to enter their world...
To take a breath, reflect...
And, in the process,
Discover who we **really** are.