



OUR FOUNDER'S BIO

Dave Wish's work as a second-grade public school teacher took an unusual turn in 1996 when he grew frustrated with the lack of music program funding at his school. Equipped with only his guitar and a passion for teaching kids, Dave started his own after-school music program and began offering free lessons to his students.

What began in 1996 as an informal project led by Dave and a handful of volunteers has catapulted into a nationally recognized non-profit organization that has served thousands of students. With the support of Honorary Board Members Bonnie Raitt, Paul Simon, BB King, Les Paul, Jason Newsted and a host of celebrated friends in the music industry, Little Kids Rock is poised to significantly extend its reach in the United States.

Dave graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Sociology with a minor in Women's Studies from Brandeis University. He worked as an elementary school teacher for 10 years. After his volunteer music classes began to take off, he left the classroom to dedicate his time fully to Little Kids Rock and helping foster future musicians.

In the fourth grade he took violin lessons, but they were playing tunes like 'Hot Cross Buns' and 'Mary Had A Little Lamb', which lead to an early retirement from the violin. Thankfully, he picked up the guitar during high school. Dave's love of music makes him what he calls, "...a compulsive guitar player and music teacher." He is a fan of jazz and is of the firm belief that Charlie Parker, Louis Armstrong and Django Rheinhardt were "some of the greatest geniuses of the 20th century". He also has a taste for the Clash, the Beatles and a guitar player named Jimi Hendrix.



Dave Wish emcees a "rock" recital with his original guitar class

www.littlekidsrock.org

