



Wonder and Awe

The definition of awe includes a strong feeling of respect or amazement brought on by something that is beautiful or sacred. If a person is filled with admiration at the sight of the expanse of the Mallee sky, then that is an example of one who is filled with awe. It stirs something deep in the heart of an individual. Wonder comes from the old English *wundor* meaning “marvellous thing, miracle, object of astonishment”. Sofia Cavalletti identified deep joy and a sense of pure wonder as core strengths in children’s spirituality capabilities (in fact all of humanities).

This Spiritual Capability may involve:

- Engaging with genuine curiosity
- Experiencing the extraordinary in the ordinary
- Exploring what could easily be missed
- ‘Listening’ for the unexpected
- Marvelling at the world
- Being mesmerized/interested/captured by the ‘grand’ as well as the ‘minute’.

Examples of educators promoting this capability could be when they:

- Invite regular and deliberate engagement and immersion in creation
- Draw attention to the ‘more’ to experience the transcendent in an experience or place
- Encourage deep contemplation about what is important
- Explore what is beauty.