

Interactive Music-Making for Practice: Working with the Under 5s

Credit-Rated Learning for Early Years Practitioners



Who is this programme for?

The Interactive Music-Making learning programme is for anyone who would like to use music as a resource to support child development. It is a unique credit-rated learning programme, primarily aimed at those working with infants under the age of 5 years. This includes early years practitioners across all community sectors including voluntary, private, charitable and statutory organisations.

No musical background or particular musical skills are required to access this training. All that matters is an interest in child development and the desire to incorporate music into this. Having said this, musicians wishing to apply their skills within a developmental framework will be very welcome too!

Why Interactive Music-Making?

Music can provide a unique, stimulating play environment for children. Encouraging children to become actively involved in making music can offer an opportunity for them to respond spontaneously in ways which are directly linked to the development of their general skills.

High-quality play is nationally documented as being essential to establishing healthy social and emotional foundations in the early years. Interactive Music-Making is designed to make music a more integral part of all children's early development opportunities. Interactive Music-Making focuses on the stages of early child development. It is designed to promote skills associated with developing social communication, including:

- Attention and listening
- Non-verbal expression
- Vocal responses
- Communication skills
- Turn-taking and sharing
- Social understanding and confidence



Is this Music Therapy?

No. Music Therapy services have a psychological focus and very clear referral criteria. Therapists typically work with children and young people (up to 19) or adults who have been identified as experiencing complex psycho-social and emotional challenges which could impact on their life chances. If a child accessing an Interactive Music-Making programme displays a level of need that would be more appropriately addressed through Music Therapy, a referral to the Greenwich Community Health Services or other local Music Therapy Service would be discussed.

Course Summary

What does the course cover?

This is a practice-based academic module, so what is learnt in the teaching sessions is designed to be directly applied in the workplace. The teaching component covers the following areas of study:

- Child development
- Attachment theory and mother/infant interactions
- Child-centred play
- How Interactive Music-Making facilitates early child development
- Developing relationships and social communication through Interactive Music-Making
- Musical resources
- Interactive Music-Making in the workplace
- When to make a referral to a Music Therapy service



What does the course entail?

This is a part-time course, with tutorials and practical workshops undertaken over 13 weeks (between 5 January 2012 – 19 April 2012). All taught sessions will take place on Thursday evenings (6 to 9pm) at the Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust Music Therapy base in Eltham, London SE9. In addition, students will be provided with self-directed study between tutorials (average duration: 1 hour). On completing the taught sessions, students will spend time applying their learning in practice.

How are knowledge and skills assessed?

A competency framework has been developed to highlight particular skills. These skills may be demonstrated practically in the workplace and theoretically using case studies. Assessed work comprises:

- 1) One 1000-word written assignment
- 2) Delivering eight, weekly, Interactive Music-Making sessions in the workplace
- 3) Reflective learning log

What will I gain on completion?

On successful completion of the programme of learning, students will gain 15 academic credits at level 5, awarded by our academic partners, the University of Greenwich. This credit can be used towards other academic programmes at the University or other higher education establishments.

How much does it cost?

The fees per place are £525, in line with similar programmes. The fees include all learning resources, lectures, seminars, experiential group work, facilitated peer supervision, tutorials and support to reflect on practice. The fees only cover the costs of development and delivery; we are not making any profit.

How do I apply or find out more?

All prospective students are required to complete a detailed application form. This should demonstrate their motivation to explore the ways in which music can be used to address the developmental needs of young children, as well as their potential to fulfil the academic demands of the course.

To find out more or apply for a place please contact Music as Therapy International on 020 7735 3231 or e-mail liz.nicholson@musicastherapy.org.