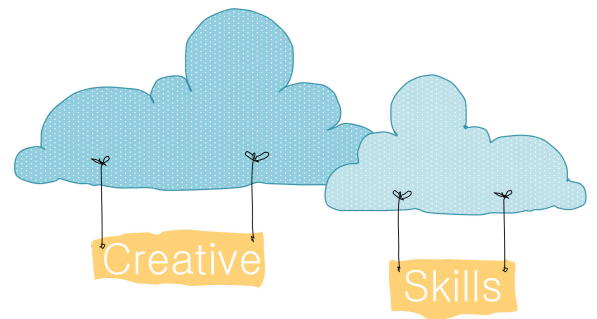


# STARCATCHERS



## Starcatchers Creative Skills Training

### Programme Overview

Starcatchers is a pioneering organisation that specialises in performances and creativity for babies, toddlers and young children under the age of five in Scotland. In addition to creative development and tours of performances for this age group, Starcatchers also delivers programmes of training for Early Years practitioners.

From 2013-15, Starcatchers is delivering a new pilot programme of Creative Skills Training for Early Years practitioners in Scotland. Funded by the Scottish Government and Creative Scotland, this programme offers a range of training sessions from Early Years artists which explore expressive arts using an open-ended, child centred approach.

The programme is for everyone working across the Early Years sector, including staff in nursery and family centre settings, health workers, childminders, and out-of-school and play workers.

***'If we are to encourage the next generation to be creative, flexible and confident, as practitioners we must first embody those principles ourselves. We need to be brave.'*** Rhona Matheson, Starcatchers Director

### The Context

The training links with several key documents:

- Scotland's new Creative Learning Plan
- Creativity Across Learning, Education Scotland's 3-18 Curriculum Impact project report
- Time to Shine, Scotland's Youth Arts Strategy for ages 0-25
- Play Strategy for Scotland
- Article 31 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child

***'Creativity is a process which generates ideas that have value to the individual. It involves looking at familiar things with a fresh eye, examining problems with an open mind, making connections, learning from mistakes and using imagination to explore new possibilities.'*** Education Scotland, 3-18 Curriculum Impact Report, Sep 2013

## The Training

The Creative Skills training is designed to be practical, accessible and inspirational. It goes beyond giving participants a list of instructions to follow, and instead increases the creative practice of the participants by:

- sharing a toolkit of expressive arts activities that are open-ended and adaptable to different ages, settings and themes
- enabling practitioners to explore their own creative and artistic capabilities in a supportive environment
- setting take home challenges where participants are asked to devise and deliver their own expressive arts activity based on what they've learned
- reflective practice opportunities where participants share their experiences from their take home challenges at the next session. This has the advantage of encouraging participants to incorporating the training into their practice straight away

The training is designed to be more than the sum of its parts, and will have the greatest impact on participants who can commit to attending the whole programme. By taking a multi-artform approach – which includes drama, creative movement, music and puppetry – participants will broaden their creative confidence across a range of expressive arts.

There are also three core sessions:

- **What is Creativity?**

This introduction to the programme will explore ideas of creativity and cover some of the theoretical context of creativity and the arts in Early Years settings. Participants are encouraged to bring their line manager to this session so they have a deeper understanding of the training and can support participants to maximise the impact within their setting.

- **Creativity in Action**

This session will give participants the opportunity to explore ideas of reactive planning and cross-curricular possibilities for creative skills and the arts across Early Years practice.

- **Next Steps**

A final session to bring all our participants together to reflect on their experiences, share practice and plan for the future.

## Aim

The aim of this training is to increase the use of creativity across the early years workforce. We will do this by building participants' capacity to deliver, adapt and create open-ended, child-centred expressive arts activities in a variety of art forms.

## Outcomes

By the end of this training, participants are expected to have:

- increased understanding of importance of arts and creativity
- increased understanding of the current strategic landscape around the arts and Early Years
- increased confidence in their ability to use creative activity in daily practice
- a toolkit of flexible expressive arts activities they can utilise in their daily practice
- increased their use of creative activity in Early Years settings
- increased expectations regarding their own creative abilities
- the chance connect with peers from other settings or sectors and share information, understanding and practice

Participants who are registered with SSSC or GTCS will be supported to gain recognition for the training.

### **The Pilot Areas**

This is a two phase pilot programme. In the first phase training ran in five local authority areas: Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Fife, Inverclyde and South Lanarkshire. For the second phase, which will run **Sep 2014-Feb 2015**, the training will run again in the first five areas and expand into new areas including Dumfries and Galloway, Dundee, East Lothian and Highland.

There are **no costs** attached to the programme for participants during this pilot.

Due to strictly limited spaces, participants will be chosen to reflect a wide as possible range of Early Years settings.

Priority will be given to participants who can commit to the whole programme in their area.

For more information, including an application form and schedules for each local authority area, contact [info@starcatchers.org.uk](mailto:info@starcatchers.org.uk) or call the Starcatchers office 0131 290 2560

