



## Starcatchers Creative Skills Training

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 artists, including theoretical as well as practical sessions.

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 Training

The Creative Skills training is designed to be practical, accessible and inspirational, and will enable practitioners to explore their own creative and artistic capabilities in a supportive environment before introducing new ideas and techniques into their own Early Years practice.

Art forms explored will include drama, dance and movement, visual art, music, storytelling and puppetry.

There are three parts to the programme:

- **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.

- **Creativity in Action**

Practical sessions with artists who specialise in working with and for Early Years. Two sessions will be dedicated to each artform, giving practitioners the chance to experiment with some of the ideas and techniques within their own settings then engaging in reflective practice the following week.

- **Next Steps**

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

Starcatchers Creative Skills Training

## 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 Pilot Areas

This is a two-year pilot programme running in five local authority areas in the first year: Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Fife, Inverclyde and South Lanarkshire.

Phase One: Jan 2014-May 2014

Phase Two : Aug 2014-Mar 2015

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

Due to strictly limited spaces, participants will be chosen to reflect as wide as possible range of Early Years settings. If you are not chosen for phase one you will be encouraged to apply for the second phase.

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

➤ **Aberdeen – deadline 9<sup>th</sup> December (at 9am)**

**What is Creativity?** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 10am-3.30pm, Aberdeen Art Gallery

**Creativity in Action** (Thursdays 4-6pm, Citymoves Studio)

30 Jan & 6 Feb	Music with Rachel Drury
20 Feb & 27 Feb	Drama with Hazel Darwin-Edwards
13 Mar & 20 Mar	Visual Art with Brian Hartley
24 Apr & 1 May	Creative Movement with Skye Reynolds

**Next Steps** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May, Citymoves Studio

➤ **Edinburgh – deadline 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**What is Creativity?** Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 10am-3.30pm, Faith Mission

**Creativity in Action** Tuesdays 3.30-3.50pm, Moffat Early Years Centre

28 Jan & 4 Feb	Puppetry with Hazel Darwin-Edwards
25 Jan & 25 Feb	Drama with Sacha Kyle
11 Mar & 18 Mar	Dance/Creative Movement with Skye Reynolds
22 Apr & 29 Apr	Visual Art with Brian Hartley

**Next Steps** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 4-6pm, venue TBC

➤ **Inverclyde – deadline 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**What is Creativity?** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 4-6pm, The Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock

**Creativity in Action** Wednesdays 4-6pm, The Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock

29 Jan & 5 Feb	Music with Rachel Drury
19 Feb & 26 Feb	Drama with Sacha Kyle
12 Mar & 19 Mar	Visual Art with Brian Hartley
23 Apr & 30 Apr	Creative Movement/Dance with Skye Reynolds
14 May & 21 May	Puppetry with Hazel Darwin-Edwards

**Next Steps** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 4-6pm, The Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock

➤ **South Lanarkshire – deadline Monday 16th December**

**Creativity in Action** Tuesdays 4-6pm, Hamilton Town House

28 Jan & 4 Feb	Music with Rachel Drury
18 Feb & 25 Feb	Drama with Hazel Darwin-Edwards
11 Mar & 18 Mar	Visual Art with Brian Hartley
22 Apr & 29 Apr	Dance/Creative Movement with Skye Reynolds
13 May & 20 May	Puppetry with Hazel Darwin-Edwards

**Next Steps** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 4-6pm, Hamilton Town House

➤ **Fife – deadline Monday 9th December**

**What is Creativity?** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 4-6pm, Venue in central Fife TBC

**Creativity in Action** Mondays 4-6pm, Venue in central Fife TBC

27 Jan & 3 Feb     Puppetry with Hazel Darwin-Edwards  
17 Feb & 24 Feb     Drama with Sacha Kyle  
10 Mar & 17 Mar     Dance/Creative Movement with Skye Reynolds  
14 Apr & 28 Apr     Visual Art with Brian Hartley  
12 May & 19 May     Music with Rachel Drury

**Next Steps** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 4-6pm, Venue in central Fife TBC

For more information about the Creative Skills Programme contact Heather Armstrong,  
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