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Musical Interaction Training Day

Training for staff working with children with special needs

Monday 20th November 9.30am – 3.30pm

Woolley Wood School, Mansel Crescent, Sheffield S5 9QN

Would you like to create more rapport and connections with the children you work with, especially those at risk of isolation due to a learning disability, autism or other special need?

Whether you have a musical background or not, you will find that **Musical Interaction** is a practical approach to creating rapport and helping children to develop fundamental communication skills through responsive, playful one-to-one or group music sessions. Grounded in the practice and theory of **Intensive Interaction**, the approach is an effective and enjoyable way to make connections, develop relationships and model natural communication in the classroom.

This practical and informative course is suitable for education staff that support children who are at the earlier stages of communication development including those with mild, severe or profound learning disabilities, ADHD, autism and also children in mainstream settings.

During the course participants will engage in:

- a presentation of supporting theory and current practice
- experiential learning activities investigating:
 - non-verbal communication skills
 - music-making skills and facilitation
 - personal challenges in the workplace and potential solutions
- a music circle facilitated by Matthew Laurie with children from Woolley Wood
- An observation of a live musical interaction session for children with PMLD.

By the end of the course each participant will have gained:

- a deeper understanding of the principles of Musical Interaction
- a deeper understanding of how to apply the principles of Musical Interaction in group & 1-2-1 settings
- a new repertoire of songs and direct experience of their application
- new ideas about how to work/play with children

Course Fees: £125 per person.

For more information or to book please call **07896 977 388** or email info@understandingarts.co.uk

Reservations will be confirmed upon payment of invoice. Reservations may be offered to those on the waiting list if payment is not received by 14 days before the course date.

This training day is facilitated by Matthew Laurie, Consultant in Creative Communication and Social Learning. Matthew has made music with children and adults with learning disabilities, dementia, autism and mental health problems for over 16 years and works full time delivering mentoring and training in Intensive Interaction and Musical Interaction. Matthew has presented at conferences in the UK and internationally and writes about his practice on his website and blog www.mattlaurie.com.

“This is the best training course I have ever been on... I have been using the ideas a lot at school and its going really well! They have all loved it - no matter which age group I am teaching.”

Katie Meeney, Music Co-ordinator, Mossbrook Special School, Sheffield