

Music Champion Project 2024 – 25

Are you interested in working with a musician to explore early years music and creativity in your nursery?

At the Spark Arts for Children we believe that everyone is musical and at a key time in their development, we want young children to have access to high quality, musical, playful encounters.

Over the next year we will be supporting 5 settings (schools, children's centres and nurseries) to explore and play with sound and music. This is the second year of this project, funded by Youth Music and local partners.

We are looking for a nursery to work with from November 2024 – June 2025 on this project.

There is no direct cost to the nursery selected but it will require some in-kind commitment, including release time for the lead practitioner to attend the training sessions (see below) and time for them to plan and reflect with their musician partner.

How will the project work?

Each setting (school/nursery/children's centre) will identify an early years practitioner interested in developing their skills and confidence in early years music making. They will be paired with a musician, who will work in partnership with them for a term exploring child-led practice through sound and music.

The project will include:

- 15 x weekly sessions of explorative child led sessions with children, working with a partner musician. Each session will be up to 2 hours, followed by some time for reflection and planning together. The project will start at the end of the autumn term with 2 training days and some initial planning but the weekly sessions will happen in the Spring term.
- 3 x days CPD for the early years practitioner music champion – 2 days in the Autumn term (5th & 6th December) and 2 x half days in the Spring term. Each pair (musician and early years practitioner) will also receive mentoring support from early years music specialist Nicola Burke. This will include a visit to observe a session, plus 2 online calls.
- Peer learning and celebration opportunities at the end of the project. This will include a half day sharing event with all of the 5 settings involved in the project plus we will also be hosting an end of project symposium to help

share the learning and practice more widely across Leicestershire and beyond.

- Resources for your setting to use during and after the project. Each setting will have a budget of up to £400 to spend on instruments/resources.

This project builds on the success and learning of previous Music Champions projects. One of the previous nurseries involved reflected on the impact for them:-

“Children have experienced sincere fun and enjoyment and have made musical memories. These musical memories in the short term are providing for increased experimentation, exploration, and creativity.

In the longer term we anticipate that the impact of this opportunity will resonate with children, colleagues, and our curriculum. The organisation and consequently our colleagues have secured improved practices in terms of musical development. We have woven the need for a sound rich environment into our policy and practice.” Amanda (Daisy Chain nursery manager) .



Interested in getting involved?

Please complete and forward an expression of interest (form attached) to hazel@thesparkarts.co.uk by 5pm - Monday 7th October 2024.

If you have any questions about this opportunity or would like to arrange a phone call please email Hazel Townsend - hazel@thesparkarts.co.uk .