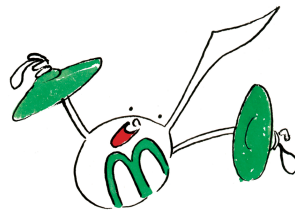


# Music House



Inspiring music for life

## Music Leader case study Sound Connections report 2007

We hope that you will want to take part: we have selected projects that meet the following criteria:

- Innovative either in terms of the approach or for the organisation/participants

- Successful – in terms of meeting aims/objectives

**Engaging multi-cultural families and babies/toddlers. Enjoyed spontaneous babble language with mother/child. Over the weeks parents uttered their own sounds in response to activities such as bounce/sway.**

**Natural sing-song engagement observed through relaxed and familiar environment – in particular once the music facilitator became familiar to the group.**

- Significant lessons – that should be shared to inform practice

**Engagement of specific families hard to achieve in children's centres since those who understand the benefits of music or shared group activities will muscle in, leaving the more vulnerable families on the edge, or excluded due to full sessions. Exploring specific sites to reach specific families would maximise potential for positive engagement and learning links from centre to home.**

We wanted case studies that show how Sound Connections fulfils its own aims, through supporting projects that:

- Engage people who are under-represented and disadvantaged in positive experiences

**As above – reaching vulnerable families is not necessarily done through Children's Centres unless restriction is given to those classes or delivery is done within an existing specific group.**

- Train people to learn and develop transferable skills as well as those specific to the Music & Creative Industries

**This was partially achieved. Commitment by musician was a little ad hoc. Her obvious enthusiasm was limited by the time she had to spend with the group and music leader. The early years key worker participated fully each week and was able to continue ideas and activities once the music leader had gone.**

- Progress people towards further learning, education and employment.

**The desire to continue with new ideas was discussed. The need to offer families new experiences and encourage confidence building with singing without the music leader. Emphasis placed on singing and dancing at home, and encouraging this to happen.**

- Place emphasis on the creation of new music through artist-led practice

**Baby babble was the key to creation of any new music for this age group. Adults with their babies were encouraged to utter babbly noises that were then picked up by the music leader to develop into simple songs. This exercise could have been further developed to create home/site links, where adults feel empowered by their own songs learnt at their own pace and ability.**

The case studies will take the form of a colour 2 page document (also published online and in various formats), comprising of up to 1,000 words and will be professionally designed within the Sound Connections brand. Each case study, highlighting either one or a group of projects, will include:

- A description of the project (including aims and objectives) and thoughts about how you succeeded in fulfilling these
- Highlighting what went particularly well, or the key lessons that you learned and would like to share with others
- How you managed to include consultation with the young people (or carers) about the project content and organisation
- Whether you would do it again – or are still doing it, or even how it has developed and grown (ie next steps)

**We are continuing to work with the same centre – with a specific group – deaf children and babies. Families here are keen to ensure a seamless, open-ended music session without apparent pressure to ‘learn’ or ‘educate’ each other. My observation included the increased confidence shown (in particular) by different cultures and their desire to bond with their baby. They are now dancing freely, singing ‘nonsense’ to their child and getting the intimate responses they expect.**

In addition to the main text, we will include textboxes for Highlights; Lessons Learned; Legacy; Feedback from participants and partners, etc, as well as space for images.