

interactive
music-making
working with the under 5s

In association with:

music as therapy international · Oxleas NHS · Nordoff & Robbins · Chime · Quality Development Trust · Primary Advantage · Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust · Puss in Boots Nursery School

What is Interactive Music-Making?

Interactive Music-Making is a child-centred approach to music-making, which establishes positive relationships and fosters the child's individual potential.

High-quality play is nationally documented as being essential to establishing healthy social and emotional foundations in the early years.

Music can provide a unique, stimulating play environment. Encouraging children to become actively involved in making music can offer an opportunity for them to respond spontaneously in ways which are directly linked to the development of their general skills.

Interactive Music-Making is designed to make music a more integral part of all children's early development opportunities, and to promote skills associated with developing social communication, including:

- Attention and listening
- Non-verbal expression
- Vocal responses
- Communication skills
- Turn-taking and sharing
- Social understanding
- Concentration and focus
- Confidence
- Self-regulation

> **"IMM really does have such a positive impact on the children and provides the staff with skills and knowledge that have benefits beyond music-making sessions.**
>
> John Peach, Headteacher and Interactive Music-Maker

Who is it for?

Interactive Music-Making is an inclusive approach when working with the under 5s and has benefits for young children who may or may not have additional needs affecting their development.

Where does it happen?

Interactive Music-Making is designed to happen anywhere! Most commonly you will find programmes being implemented in a range of early years settings, such as Children's Centres, 'Play and Stay' sessions or nurseries, as well as at home.

Is this Music Therapy?

No. Music therapy sessions have a psychological focus and very clear referral criteria. For more information about music therapy, go to www.bamt.org

> "Incorporating IMM into our curriculum is a delightful and thoughtful way for children to develop essential social skills. They build a strong foundation for future learning.

Early Years Practitioner, Pembury House Nursery and Children's Centre

> "Interactive Music-Making is what early years is all about. What better inclusive environment can you think of?

Dimitrios Kontozisis, Deputy Head-Specialist Leader in Education, Clyde Children's Centre

Interactive Music-Making Training

Interactive Music-Making is a practice-based course, designed to support practitioners to apply their learning directly in the workplace. It comprises 11 weeks' teaching and 8 weeks' supervised practice. Teaching content covers the following areas:

- Child development
- Attachment theory and parent/infant interactions
- Child-centred play
- How Interactive Music-Making (IMM) facilitates early child development
- Developing relationships and social communication through IMM
- Musical resources
- Interactive Music-Making in the workplace
- When to make a referral to a Music Therapy service

The next Interactive Music-Making course will be offered in January 2027 in East London.

For more information about becoming an Interactive Music-Maker, go to:
www.interactivemusicmaking.org
Email: zackmorrisjones@musicastherapy.org
Telephone: 020 7735 3231

Access training for FREE!

Early Years settings can apply for one of our limited Interactive Music-Making Awards, covering one course place, one set of musical instruments, and a contribution to travel/staff cover costs. Get in touch to find out more!

