



## Creative Skills Dundee 2019/20

When you work with young children, you are their inspiration. Let us inspire you.

### **Ethos:**

Starcatchers is delighted to be working with the Scottish Government and Dundee City Council to deliver our innovative Creative Skills training programme in 2019/20.

Creative Skills is Starcatchers' unique artist-facilitated training programme. We give early years practitioners, educators and others who work with babies and young children the confidence and skills to put expressive arts at the heart of practice in ways which improve wellbeing and can be used to support closing the attainment gap.

For young children to develop a sense of agency and fulfil their rights, they need responsive adults who tune in to their interests with a playful and creative approach. You are their inspiration and we want to develop your skills and confidence to inspire new thoughts and ideas that will help improve outcomes for the children you work with.

Creative Skills is about more than just the sharing of ideas – it's about investing in Early Years practitioners as people and recognising that creative responsive adults are the most valuable "open-ended resource" our children need.

Starcatchers Creative Skills approach shares open ended ideas and techniques designed to give babies and young children a voice – engaging them in decision making, offering opportunities for self-expression, and respecting them as active agents in their own lives. We take an asset-based approach: our artists are experts in the expressive arts for young children, our participants are experts in their own setting and the children they work with, and babies and young children are experts in what interests and motivates them.

*"Over the years participants have made the links between the Creative Skills Programme and their own practice, telling me excitedly "This is so Froebelian", "This is so Reggio", "This is so Tina Bruce", "the ideas can be used so well in free-flow play". Every time I do more research, the same answer comes back to me: whatever your Early Years "tribe" the practical ideas we share through the programme support best practice."*

Heather Armstrong, Creative Skills Manager, Starcatchers



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### Participant Feedback

“The course was brilliant for linking the theory with practical skills, it’s really deepened my understanding of the arts and creativity and how to use it in my practice.”

“The difference in our setting is unbelievable, the training's made such a difference in our approach - we've got kids taking part in activities we used to think they'd never be capable of.”

“I see now how easy it is to incorporate creativity in cross-curricular activities, to engage children, to develop their creativity, curiosity, investigation, skills... all leading to raising attainment.”

### Schedule:

| Dates                             | Session   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Thurs. 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction with Heather Armstrong</li> <li>• Creative Movement with Skye Reynolds, Session 1</li> </ul>      |
| Thurs. 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2019  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drama with Amy Hall-Gibson, Session 1</li> <li>• Visual Art with Pearl Kinnear, Session 1</li> </ul>           |
| Thurs. 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative Champions with Heather Armstrong</li> <li>• Music with Greg Sinclair, Session 1</li> </ul>            |
| Thurs. 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music with Greg Sinclair, Session 2</li> <li>• Drama with Amy Hall-Gibson, Session 2</li> </ul>                |
| Thurs. 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative Movement with Skye Reynolds, Session 2</li> <li>• Visual Art with Pearl Kinnear, Session 2</li> </ul> |

Training is **free** to attend will take place on **Thursdays** from 9:30am-3:30pm at Mitchell Street Centre, Dundee, DD2 DLJ.

Participants are expected to attend all sessions (please note that a £30 non-attendance fee will be charged for each missed session, unless cancellation has been made 24 hours in advance or extenuating circumstances apply).



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### **How to Apply:**

- Go to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CreativeSkillsAberdeen](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CreativeSkillsAberdeen) to complete our application form
- Once we have received your completed application form we'll be in touch to confirm your place on training
- Priority will be given to Early Years Professionals who work in Dundee City

### **Get in touch:**

If you have any questions about the training please contact:  
Catherine Wilson, Creative Skills Administrator  
[catherine.wilson@starcatchers.org.uk](mailto:catherine.wilson@starcatchers.org.uk) / 0131 290 2565