



Noisytoys.org

Information for schools:
Special Schools / SEN workshops

Our multi-sensory and hands-on activities are perfectly suited to neurodiverse learners and those with special educational needs. We have taken our workshops and activities to many different kinds of schools from ASD to PMLD to EBD. All workshops are led by Stephen Summers (QTS).

There are a diverse range of special schools and a huge variety of learners within them. We bring plenty tried-and-tested activities and defer to the advice of the teachers as to what is best suited to each group.

"I will never forget the experience of witnessing a selective mute [non vocal] girl chat away and sing on the funny microphone at the Victoria Baths event. She spoke more in those few minutes than she had in the last 2 years!"

Anna Vermond, Teacher & Coordinator
The Birches school, Manchester



We have found that small group sessions of participatory sound experiments and activities are very effective. Here are some examples of the kinds of activities that we can use:

Bass Buzz & Oobleck

Experiencing sound vibrations with ears, eyes & hands. It's an intense sensation and helps us understand sound and magnetism. The powerful vibrations can also create incredible dancing monster shapes in a non-Newtonian fluid.

<https://noisytoys.org/what-we-do/bass-buzz/>

Nose Test

Linking our hands together in a circle we can pass a (very small) electrical current through our bodies, using our hands as switches, to control the sound. What other material will the electricity go through?

<https://noisytoys.org/what-we-do/nose-test/>

Found Sounds

Revealing hidden sounds in objects, using contact microphones.

With tactile rubberised contact mics connected to mini-amps, we can find wonderful sounds in unlikely places: rubber band, egg slicers, radiators... We can use all kinds of things as musical instruments.

Optional: Noise Jam & conducted improvisation

E-waste Scavengers

When we connect computer fans to a battery, we can use them to strike cups and cake tins and other things to make some fast, rhythmic music. We can then amplify this with microphones.

<https://noisytoys.org/scavengers/>

Some of these activities require more motor skill than others; we will work with the school to plan the best fit for each group. Quiet versions of some activities for audio-sensitive learners are also available.