

Coram creative therapies.

One of the many fantastic things that Coram does is to work with children with severe communication difficulties often due to traumatic experiences.

These children are often very young very vulnerable and unable to understand or express how they feel. But once working with art therapists and music therapists the children learn to find their voice, start to communicate better and start leading happier lives.

Clare: He was almost three when he had his diagnosis, but it was a long process, music therapy was the first real therapy along with speech and language therapy that we wanted to engage him in straight away, so it's proved very successful.

Clare: Hello? Hi it's Clare and Ernie for music therapy.

Clare: Every child with autism is different; they say if you have met a child with autism you have only met one child with autism, they are just so different.

Jackie: It was a long time ago when Andy arrived for his first session, he came in with his dad and the striking thing was that he couldn't concentrate on one thing that he was moving very quickly from one instrument to another. The way we built a relationship initially was through the movement of him walking so he would walk and I would match the tempo of the music with his walking, he realised that was what was going on he would start running or he would start jumping, or he would stop and realise that it was him in control of the music.

Clare: It's very call and response, Jackie would play something and Ernie would respond back so he really understood better, pretty much straight away the idea of art that's how we talk that pretty much clicked for him.

Jackie: Art and music doesn't discriminate on who it will support so we don't either, we look at children with a whole plethora of issues.

Jackie: We have seen Ernie transform through music, we have seen Ernie go from a little boy who was autistic spectrum and very limited in his capacity to express himself and he actually comes alive with the music its absolutely wonderful to see that.

Clare: I think the biggest thing, I mean there are so many benefits to music therapy and Ernie coming into Coram but the biggest thing for us is the biggest thing is his confidence; he really has come along in such massive ways in a social context.