



A CARR Micro Report from Sound Communities CIC, Paignton, Devon

Re-engaging Young People Through Creativity: Exploring Creative Approaches to Repairing School-Based Trauma

Context

Sound Communities is a not-for-profit alternative provision supporting young people through creative digital media, arts, music, film, and play-based learning. This research focused on a young person who had experienced significant school-based trauma and had been disengaged from education for an extended period.

Research Question: What would happen if we used creativity as a way of re-engaging young people who have experienced school-based trauma with learning?

What I found out...

Using young-person-led creative constructivist approaches, underpinned by trauma-informed and attachment-aware practice, creativity proved highly effective in rebuilding trust, belonging, and engagement. Over the course of a term, the young person progressed from being unable to enter the building without support from mum, to independently engaging in three-hour learning sessions and actively participating in a wide range of creative activities.

This has led me to...

Explore how this practice can be embedded across Sound Communities through staff development and how a training programme could be developed to share play-based, trauma-informed creative approaches with other schools, educational settings and alternative provisions.

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