OCM Education and Outreach
Project Journey Log

Sound Story
in partnership with Oxford Central Library
During the summer of 2012 Oxford Contemporary Music (OCM) met with staff at the Oxford Central Library to discuss possible ways we could collaborate and celebrate families learning together.

The library mentioned that they were working towards the creation of a family learning festival during the October half-term of 2012 and we decided that this would be an ideal opportunity to pilot a music project with families.

Towards the end of the summer we received completed questionnaires from 25 families who all thought it was a great idea. From the feedback we received we were able to determine that a weekly 30 – 45 minute music making session for families to take part in was in high demand and that this would be something that would remain popular all year round.
We recruited music leader Emily Marshall to deliver 3 taster sessions at different times throughout the day in Oxford Central Library on Friday 2\textsuperscript{nd} Nov 2012.

The project was called Sound Story and Emily developed and delivered 3 project sessions that invited participants to explore vocal sounds and singing through an existing story.
Emily led the groups through the various stages of the project.

Participants were invited to take part in:
- Introductions and icebreakers
- Vocal warm ups
- Improvised conduction
- Presented with a story for stimulus
- The development of sound and music ideas
- A small performance
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One of the participants on the project was autistic. He was really engaged in the project and took a really active role in it.

Here is what one parent had to say about the project:

“I thought it was really good. My 11 month old really enjoyed it, in fact much more so than Rhyme time because it was more interactive.

Good time of day too- afternoons. Also liked that it wasn’t too full on lots of sessions would be good in the future as I’m sure it will fill up fast once people know about it.

Also really like the focus musical element of it. It felt a lot more social and nice vibe to it. As a parent I find Rhyme time good but its not as friendly as this was, as everyone just comes and goes for that.”
Quotes from participants

I thought it was really good. My 11 month old really enjoyed it – in fact, much more so than Rhyme Time because it was more interactive. Good time of day too – afternoons. Also liked that it wasn’t too full – so 10/13 of sessions would be good in the future as I’m sure it will fill up fast once people know about it. Also, really liked the focused musical element of it. It felt a lot more social and a nice vibe to it. As a parent I find Rhyme Time good but it’s not as friendly as this was, as everyone just comes and goes for that.

“I think it was fun.” Rufus (aged 4)

Thank you very much. We enjoyed the song ‘singing HYA HYA’. If we liked having drums.

Oxford Contemporary Music
Quotes from participants

lovely activity we stumbled on by accident. Great to have something children could participate in. My son really enjoyed it.

P. Webster

We've been to a story tale with Emily and we loved it. We would have loved to do it again and again...

Kiat and Mika and Jonathan

Really loved the sound effects and singing. Thank you very much 😊
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Audio Clips Created
The pilot project Story Sounds proved to be a success.

Our Next step is to apply for the city council’s small funding grant to fund some regular activity at the library.

We hope to use this funding to not only run sessions at the central library but to expand into the other smaller libraries in places like, Cowley, Blackbird Leys, Headington, Marston and Summer Town.

We submitted a funding bid to the city council on Friday 2\textsuperscript{nd} November 2012 to start the next phase of families learning with OCM.
Thank you for reading the Sound Story Project Journey Log