

### Third SensoryPlus Awareness Day - Harlow

## “An excellent course and excellent speakers”

In a bid to help new, and established, early years practitioners further understand the power and application of a multi-sensory approach, SensoryPlus hosted the third of its rolling programme of Sensory Awareness Days held in Harlow, Essex.

The goal of these one day seminars is not only for the SensoryPlus team and their guest speakers to present the key elements of the sensory product range, examine multi-sensory approaches, promote an understanding of the different types of environments and how they are appropriate to different individuals but moreover to provide an opportunity attendees to network with likeminded individuals, share experiences, evolve ideas and discover alternative approaches to sensory environments. But most importantly, enjoy themselves.

Opened by David Payne, SensoryPlus Product Manager, the Awareness Days are deliberately designed to avoid overt product demonstrations and keep to the ethos of information and learning to the fore.

“Selling equipment isn’t the objective, creating a relaxed atmosphere in which delegates can be introduced to the Multi-Sensory approach and glean an array of practical product and activity tips is what makes these days fun, well attended and meaningful.”

Judy Denziloe, a leading trainer on sensory work and learning through play, proved popular as she demonstrated real-life, simple to effect activities and advice on best practice. It is not all talking and listening on Judy’s training courses either! An important part of every training course is a practical session, looking at and handling a wide range of materials. Judy is a devotee of the cheap and cheerful approach to Multi-Sensory equipment and as a result delegates left with an extensive wish list to be sourced at Ikea and the Pound Shop!

Suzanne Little followed, calling on her vast body of experience at the SCOPE residential school at Meldreth Manor, using case histories to illuminate and illustrate the exemplary work she’s been undertaking for almost sixteen years at Meldreth. Suzanne’s sincerity and enthusiasm coupled with the real life exemplar

proved a powerful mix and the audience truly connected with the message of empowerment and choice captured in her presentation.

Richard Hirstwood, an independent sensory trainer and a renowned authority around the world, provided a contagious level of energy and enthusiasm and more than two decades of experience in the Multi-Sensory field. His closing session, a maelstrom of sounds, lights, imagination and inspirational anecdotes, left the audience breathless. Beneath the humour and enjoyment, lurk serious messages and they ensure every delegate is both invigorated and leaves brimming with new ideas. Following Richard on the day is an onerous task, but his unique taster session entitled 'An Introduction to Multi-Sensory' provides the perfect starter for professionals new to Multi-Sensory approaches and a welcome recap for more experienced practitioners.

With three of these days successfully complete, SensoryPlus have two more days planned for 2007, Loxton - Somerset in September and Glasgow in October and plan to extend their programme in 2008 to reach more of the UK. For full details of the day's agenda, and the schedule for 2008 please contact Freephone 0800 212709 or email [lizgatt@sensoryplus.co.uk](mailto:lizgatt@sensoryplus.co.uk)

Here are some comments made by delegates attending the SensoryPlus Awareness Day in Harlow:-

- "Have taken away lots of new ideas and top tips"
- "A very good course, which was very stimulating and kept my interest"
- "Found it very useful, lots of ideas to take back to the setting"
- "This course has given me food for thought and lots of ideas to put into practice"
- "One of the best courses I have been to! It all seems so much less daunting now and I have some cheap ideas that can be easily and quickly set up"
- "Good ideas, information to take away and thoughts for good practice"