

Dates for the two
day ...

'Introduction to social pedagogy'

...course are avail-
able through this
coming year. For
more info email Jackie.mee@derbyshire.gov.uk
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Practitioner's view: Julie Liston, Contract Foster Carer

Julie has been foster-
ing for a couple of
years as a contract car-
er. She provides short
breaks for children
aged 11 - 18. This can
be during school holi-
days, weekends and
over evenings.

Julie uses many as-
pects of social peda-
gogy in her work. Key
to this is how she cre-
ates opportunities for
the relationships with
the young people to
grow and for learning
to take place amid the
shared living spaces of
both her home and
her land, where she
and the young people
live alongside her dogs
and horses.



After some initial re-
luctance the children
soon warm to the idea
of being outside,
getting involved with
the animals and taking
on responsibilities for
many jobs. Julie allows
them to explore their
own personalities in
this shared space.
Some love the groom-
ing and enjoying time
with the horses in a
very mindful way.



Others prefer practical
roles taking on grass
strimming or collecting
logs for the fire. All
these activities build
esteem and confi-
dence in the young
people and help them
develop their abilities,
learn responsibility

and life skills.



Julie has a wealth of
experience previously
she has worked as a
disability inclusion
officer and has also
run projects sup-
porting Travellers. She
does a range of volun-
teering work linked to
her love of riding and
showing horses. She
has also been involved
in substance misuse
work.

As well as using her
own resources Julie
also ensures the chil-
dren can lead activi-
ties.

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Dispel the 'fake news'

Fake news about social pedagogy

Social pedagogy can seem a complex idea and is often subject to many myths about its practice and foundations.

We try to dispel these in Derbyshire through our practical use of social pedagogy but some ideas can stick.

Colleagues at Thempra, an organisation supporting social pedagogy throughout the UK, have developed some myth busting links to help people better understand social pedagogy, what it is and what it is not. It sets out to dispel the 'fake news' which might be out there.

Have a look at their piece on myth busting social pedagogy.

www.thempra.org.uk/social-pedagogy/myths-about-social-pedagogy/



Continued...Julie Liston, Contract Foster Carer

An interest in cooking might spark a session baking a cake that one of the children's grandmas used to make. On another occasion with one girl, they decided to make scones but in forgetting the recipe they added too much salt. The inedible scones were a source of humour and also a life lesson the young girl, and Julie, will never forget. And the horses enjoyed the scones.

Julie is also on her own journey with social pedagogy and has already started to contribute to other people's learning. She led the session at the

last foster care conference on sharing, attachment and social pedagogy.

She brought to the session a range of experiences working with children through activities, what social pedagogy calls the use of a common third (activity).

Her comfort in sharing her own personal life alongside her horses and dogs is key to her ability to find and developed shared life spaces with the young people. She is also able to meet the young people in their own life space. Although not her own personal interest,

finding and building Lego alongside someone who does have an interest helps to build not just the Lego model but also the relationship.

As part of the further development of social pedagogy through fostering Julie is now delivering on the social pedagogy taster day for foster carers.

If you interested a next date is in November in Chesterfield and you can find out more from clare.robinson@derbyshire.gov.uk

A life lesson the young girl, and Julie, will never forget.



Social Pedagogy at the Foster Care Conference and Beyond



Hand massage activity on the taster day promote conversation and learning

I was privileged to be involved in supporting Julie Liston lead the workshop session on social pedagogy and attachment at the Foster Care Conference back in March.

The session covered how getting involved in activities with children and sharing as much of life as possible can be a key way to better understanding the young person. Once this understanding grows the child's personality can begin to emerge and can move on to further activities which they can take more of a lead in.



Looking for such learning opportunities in life and using these to build relationships is a social pedagogy approach called the common third.

Ideally the child is given as much control as possible. This allow them to start to become responsi-



ble and really learn some core life skills. This all takes a bit of confidence on the part of practitioners supporting children in this way but being involved in such activities with children does a huge amount to better build a relationship.

This idea is also a key part of the foster care social pedagogy taster session run as a short day course by carers who use social pedagogy themselves.

The pictures show Julie, Rob and Steve, all carers, leading other

carers through a range of activities and reflective learning on how such activities can be brought to life for the children they care for.

The passion of the three carers who deliver the course is infectious and continues to support the understanding, use and development of social pedagogy through foster care in Derbyshire.

If you have not been on the taster session or the two day introduction to social pedagogy course why not get in touch and explore social pedagogy further.





"Working together to support and inspire children, young people and their families to be the best they can be; safe, health, happy, learning and working."

Stay in touch

If you have any comments about the gazette or would like to know more about the development of social pedagogy please feel free to get in touch. Also do make contact if you would like to highlight your own or colleagues work developing social pedagogy.

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Social pedagogy quote:

"I long remained a child, and I am still one in many respects."

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

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<http://bit.ly/29P1Aip>