

MLC

MUSIC LEARNING COLLECTIVE

IMPACT STUDY

DISCOVERING THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES:
MLC'S SHORT BREAKS PROVISION FOR
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS
AND DISABILITIES (SEND)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This impact study aims to assess the outcomes and benefits of a Community Short Breaks music activity designed specifically for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The programme, spanning an initial ten weeks, was implemented with the goal of fostering inclusive musical experiences and promoting holistic development among participants. The study evaluates the impact on the participants' musical abilities, social skills, and overall well-being.

“ It has been lovely to see him go with a smile and come back with one. I think he wants to be part of the team and have a job.

“ [The participant] has loved coming and has wanted to come every week which is amazing for him. He is sad that it's coming to an end.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
WHO WE ARE	4
MISSION STATEMENT	4
OUR APPROACH	5
COMMUNITY SHORT BREAKS	6
NATURE OF THE PROVISION	7
ABOUT THE PATHWAY	9
METHODOLOGY	10
KEY FINDINGS	11
DISCOVER ARTS AWARD	16
ATTENDANCE & RETENTION	17
RECOMMENDATIONS	18
CONCLUSION	19





WHO WE ARE

The Music Learning Collective (MLC) is a Community Interest Company based in the East Midlands. Since opening our doors in 2007, we have helped thousands of people to realise their potential throughout the United Kingdom, France, Italy and beyond.

Our teachers work across our centres, in schools, colleges and universities, to deliver music education to the highest standards, all supported by our unique online education platform.

We support musicians at every stage of their journey but, above all else, we make it fun!

THE MUSIC LEARNING COLLECTIVE

MISSION STATEMENT

To be a world-leading provider of experiences, education and training that is centred within the creative industries by inspiring and nurturing our collective—one community, one person and one note at a time.

— Paul Hose, MLC's Founder & CEO

OUR APPROACH

One of our goals is to open doors to the world of music for everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances.

We understand the transformative power of music and strive to connect with and empower individuals and communities wherever they may be.

By dissolving barriers of access to the arts and creative industries, we strive to bridge cultural divides and promote expression as a means for community cohesion and personal empowerment.





COMMUNITY SHORT BREAKS

In 2023, Nottingham City Council (NCC) were successful in securing funding for Short Breaks through the Department for Education (DfE). NCC subsequently sought providers to deliver a range of reliable Community Short Breaks activities for children and young people with disabilities. Short Breaks provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to play and socialise, whilst giving their families and primary carers a break.

These opportunities can include evening activities such as youth groups, weekend activities and school holiday clubs. NCC were looking at Community Short Breaks for disabled children over the age of 8 years and particularly for those with disabilities, complex health needs and behaviour that challenges.

In collaboration with Community Catalysts, NCC commissioned the MLC to provide Short Breaks to children and young people over the course of six months, beginning in January 2024. It was delivered in partnership with Impactd C.I.C, Source Distribution, and Ardour Healthcare Services.





NATURE OF THE SHORT BREAKS PROVISION



MUSIC PRODUCTION

Participants create, capture, manipulate, and preserve music so that it can be distributed and enjoyed.



MUSIC FOR FILM

Participants compose original music written specifically to accompany a short film or animation.



FOLEY

Participants reproduce everyday sound effects that are added to films, videos, and other media to enhance audio quality.



LOOPS & BEATS

Participants explore creating new pieces of music by arranging pre-recorded loops and beats.



RESEARCH

Participants research the work of artists or craftspeople and arts organisations.



SHARING

Participants share with others what they have learned, enjoyed and achieved.



ABOUT THE **PATHWAY**

MLC'S *Discover the Creative Industries* pathway encourages children and young people to experience different art forms, and develop their own creativity and voice during the process. Participants record what they have achieved and share it with others to enjoy.

As they *Discover the Creative Industries*, learners build their artistic knowledge, creativity and confidence—and have the option of gaining a recognised qualification in the process. They will explore a range of genres, creators and arts organisations, and make full use of their imagination and communication skills. These pillars, not only help children achieve their stake in Cultural Capital, but can assist curriculum leaders and teachers achieve higher Ofsted ratings.

To achieve an Arts Award, young people create a personal arts log, in a format of their choice, presenting evidence of:

PART A

Taking part in a range of arts activities – including a personal response about what has inspired them

PART B

Researching the work of artists or craftspeople and arts organisations

PART C

Creating a piece of art work

PART D

Sharing with others what they have enjoyed and achieved through completing their Arts Award

METHODOLOGY

The study employed a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. Post-course assessments were conducted, including standardised musical ability tests and questionnaires. Additionally, observations, interviews, and feedback from parents, teachers, and participants were gathered to provide a comprehensive understanding of the pathway's impact.



“ [The participant] has taken to this really well and it is usually so hard to get him to want to continue or stick at anything. He has and has wanted to come every week. He has felt comfortable with all staff, which again is a huge thing for him.

It's very rare for [the participant] to feel happy and comfortable with a whole group of staff. There hasn't been one issue or concern raised at all. As a parent it has been a new experience to feel comfortable and confident with [the participant] attending here.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Musical Development:

- > Significant improvement in musical skills, including rhythm, pitch recognition, and composition.
- > Enhanced ability to express themselves through music, with a noticeable increase in creativity and confidence.



2. Social Skills:

- > Positive changes in social interactions, with participants demonstrating improved communication and collaboration during group musical activities.
- > Increased willingness to engage with peers, leading to the development of meaningful connections.

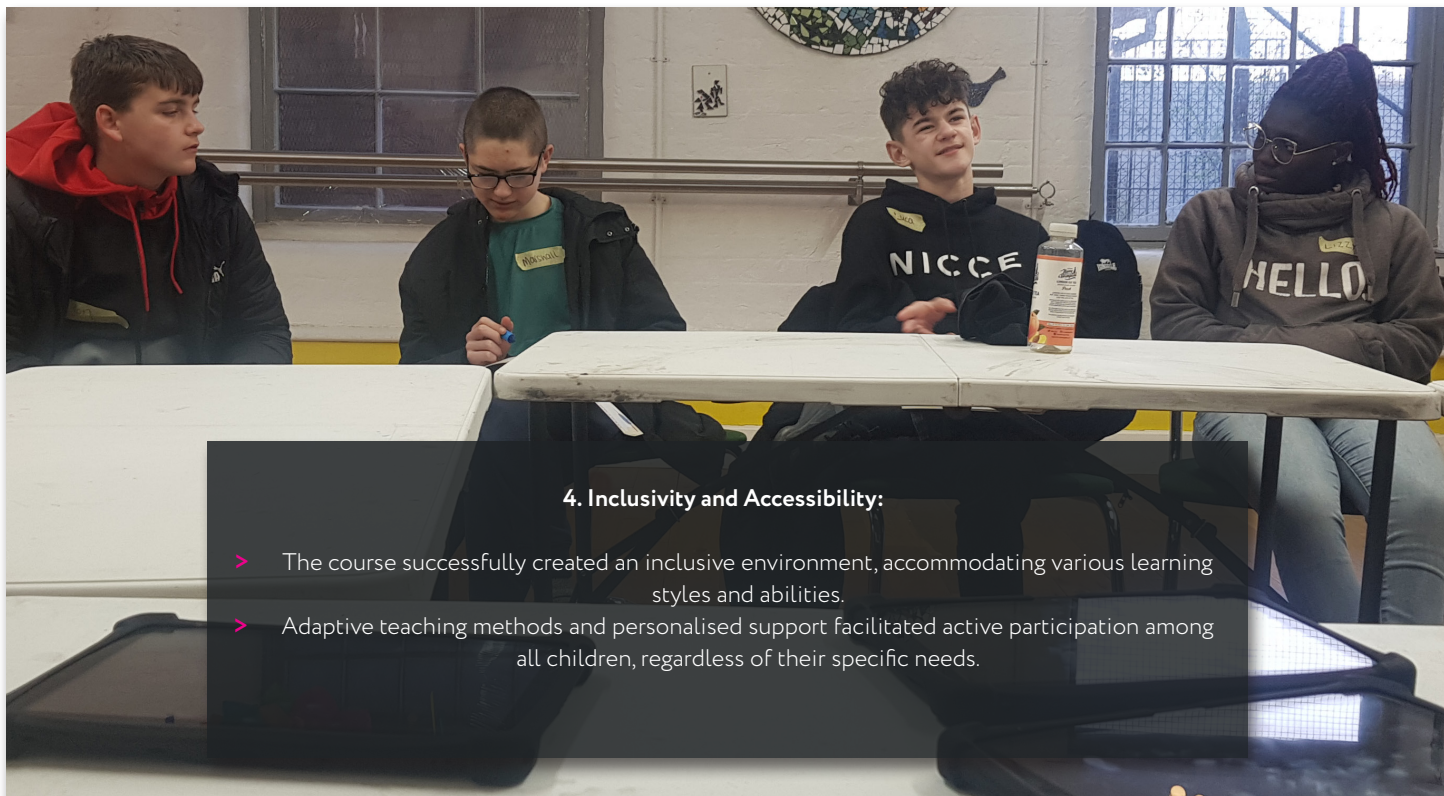


KEY FINDINGS CONTINUED ...

3. Emotional Well-being:

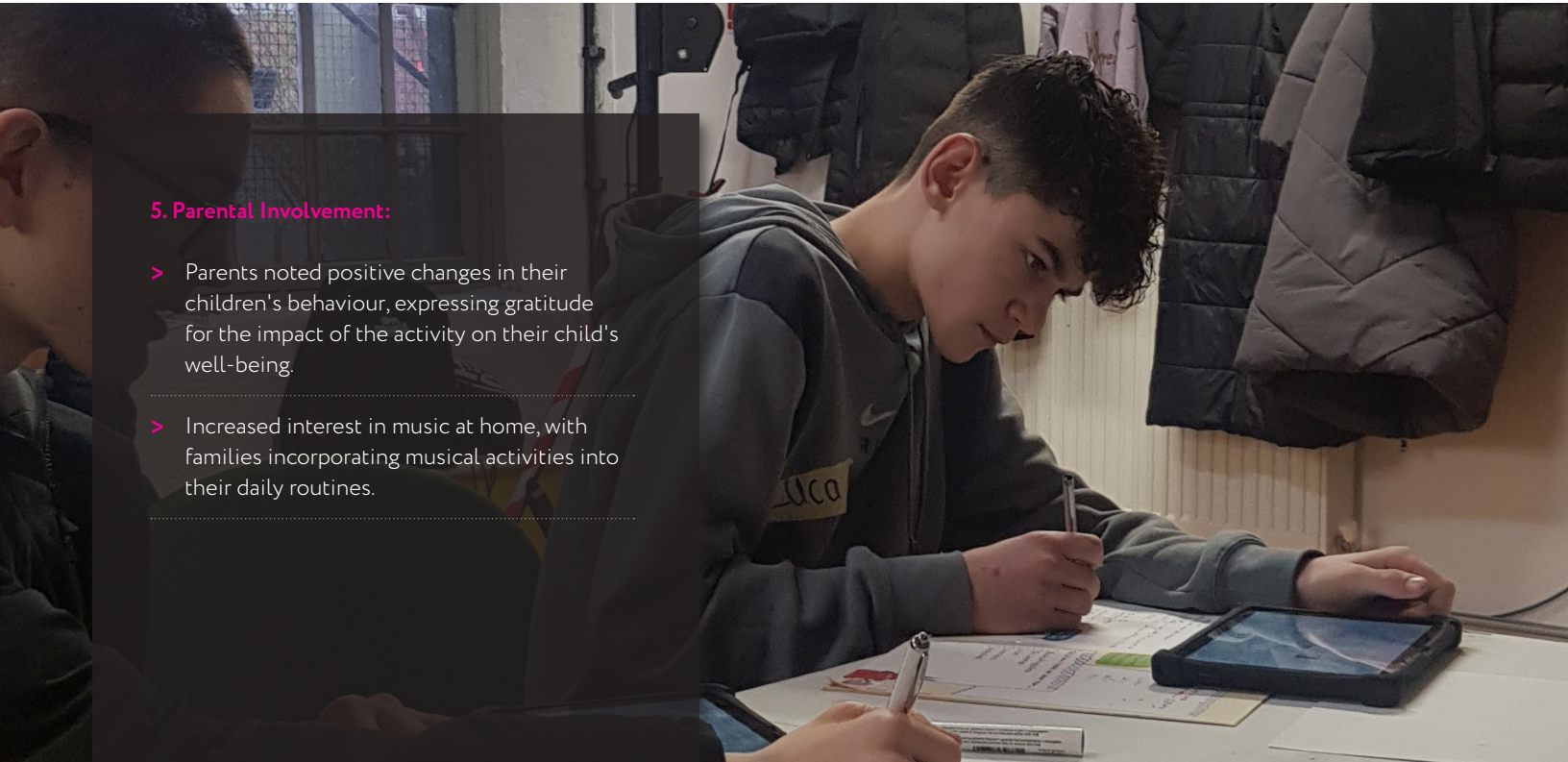
- > Participants reported heightened levels of joy, self-esteem, and a sense of accomplishment through their musical achievements.
- > The course served as a positive outlet for emotional expression and regulation.





4. Inclusivity and Accessibility:

- > The course successfully created an inclusive environment, accommodating various learning styles and abilities.
- > Adaptive teaching methods and personalised support facilitated active participation among all children, regardless of their specific needs.



5. Parental Involvement:

- > Parents noted positive changes in their children's behaviour, expressing gratitude for the impact of the activity on their child's well-being.

- > Increased interest in music at home, with families incorporating musical activities into their daily routines.

100%
EXCELLENT

How would you rate your overall satisfaction with MLC's Short Breaks programme?

100%
AGREE/STRONGLY AGREE

Does your child find the sessions stimulating?

100%
AGREE/STRONGLY AGREE

Have you noticed heightened levels of joy, self-esteem, or a sense of accomplishment through their musical achievements?

100%
PASS RATE

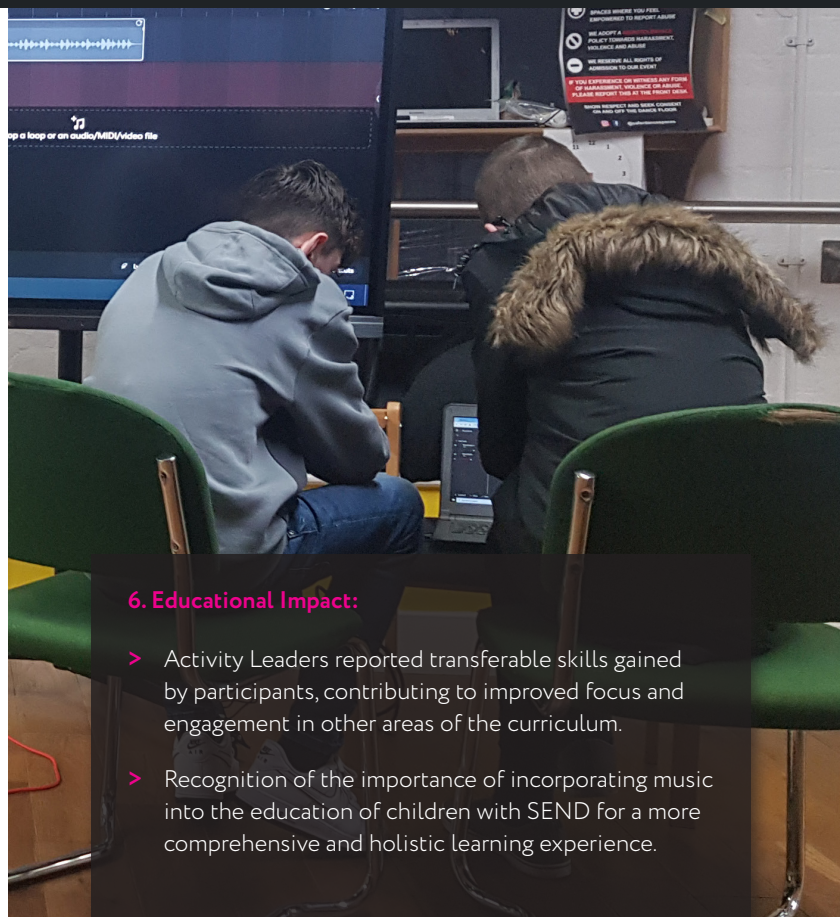
All participants that attended at least three sessions achieved a Discover Arts Award

100%
AGREE/STRONGLY AGREE

Have you noted an increased interest in music/creativity at home?

100%
VERY LIKELY

How likely would you be to recommend MLC's Short Breaks activities to a friend or family member?



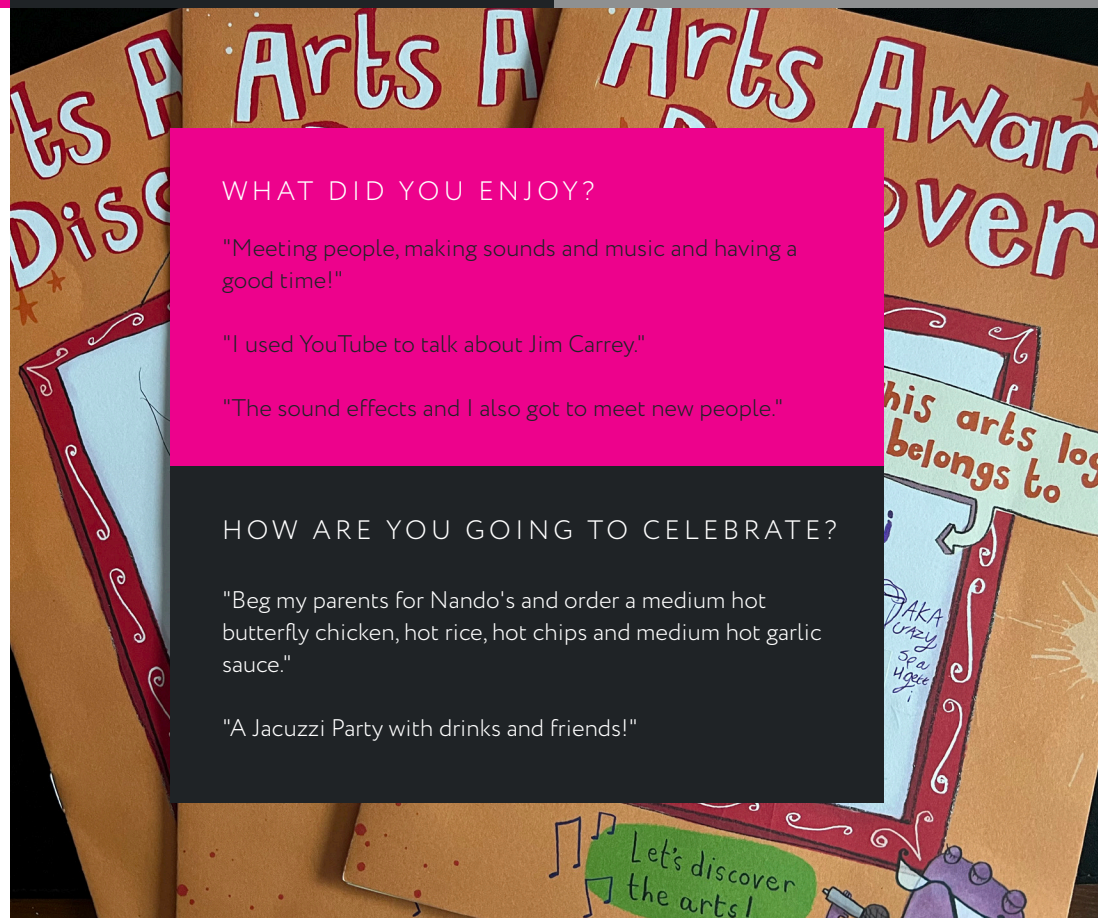
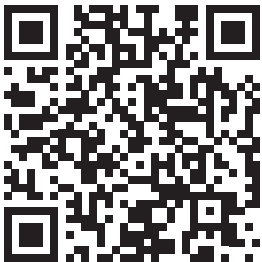
6. Educational Impact:

- > Activity Leaders reported transferable skills gained by participants, contributing to improved focus and engagement in other areas of the curriculum.
- > Recognition of the importance of incorporating music into the education of children with SEND for a more comprehensive and holistic learning experience.

DISCOVER ARTS AWARD

ARTS AWARD IS A SUITE OF ARTS-BASED QUALIFICATIONS FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 25 AND UNDER. **TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON** MANAGES ARTS AWARD IN ASSOCIATION WITH **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**.

CLICK OR **SCAN THE QR CODE** TO VIEW THE PARTICIPANT'S OUTPUT.



WHAT DID YOU ENJOY?

"Meeting people, making sounds and music and having a good time!"

"I used YouTube to talk about Jim Carrey."

"The sound effects and I also got to meet new people."

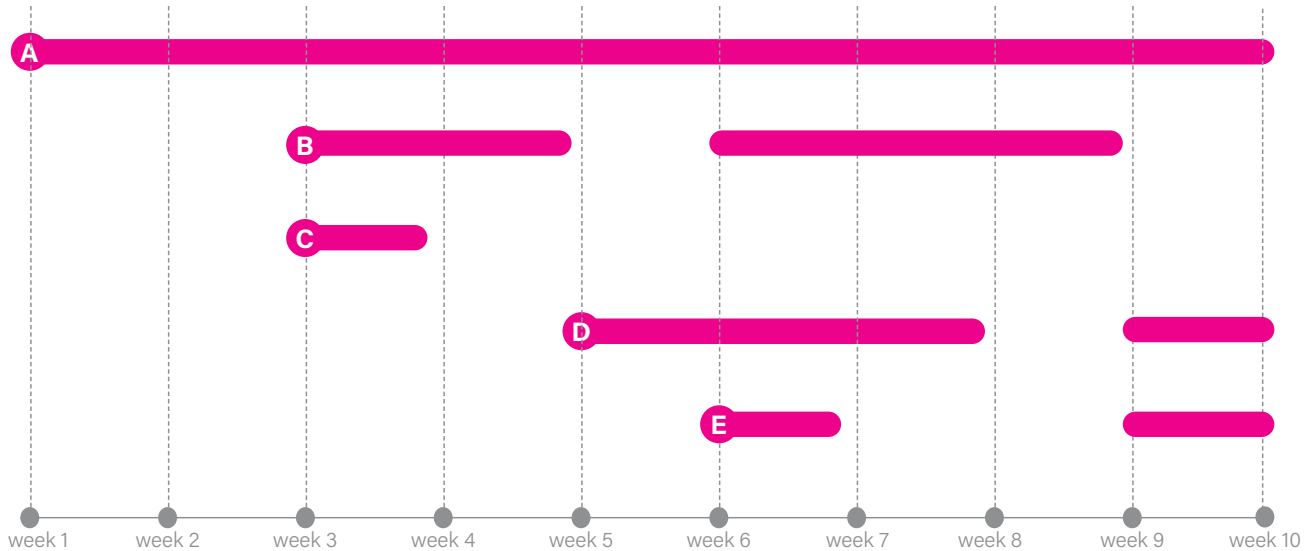
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO CELEBRATE?

"Beg my parents for Nando's and order a medium hot butterfly chicken, hot rice, hot chips and medium hot garlic sauce."

"A Jacuzzi Party with drinks and friends!"

ATTENDANCE & RETENTION

ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION RATES WERE TRACKED THROUGHOUT THE 10-WEEKS OF PROVISION. UNDERSTANDABLY, SOME SESSIONS WERE MISSED BY PARTICIPANTS (A-E) DUE TO THEIR COMPLEX HEALTH NEEDS.





RECOMMENDATIONS

01

CONTINUATION & EXPANSION

Extend the music pathway to cater to a broader age range and diverse disabilities.
Consider integrating the course into the regular school curriculum to provide ongoing musical opportunities.

03

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Foster further partnerships with community organisations, fostering a network of support for families with children with SEND through music-related events and resources.

02

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Provide training for educators to enhance their ability to adapt teaching methods for children with diverse learning needs.
Foster collaboration between music educators and special education professionals to further refine and expand inclusive practices.

04

RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION

Conduct ongoing research to continually assess the impact of the music pathway on participants' long-term development.
Document success stories and share them within the educational community to inspire and encourage similar initiatives.



CONCLUSION

The impact study indicates that the MLC's Short Breaks music pathway for children with SEND has yielded positive outcomes, not only in musical development but also in social skills and emotional well-being.

The inclusive nature of the programme has provided a model for effective education and enrichment for children with diverse learning needs. Further investment and expansion of such initiatives are recommended to continue fostering a more inclusive and supportive educational environment.



ML.C

MUSIC LEARNING COLLECTIVE