

CURIOUS CARGO – Workshops & Creative Experiences

Approach:

Curious Cargo is a performance & visual arts company. Our aim is to reach diverse audiences and offer quality, playful, thought-provoking, exploratory and exciting creative experiences.

Curious Cargo offers high quality, participatory [workshop and training packages](#) for community settings, mainstream & SEN education, & early years. The company has experience in consultation, training and delivery of visual arts and performance workshops. Through projects we offer hands-on practical work that challenges the participants to reflect, use their imagination, express themselves and their thoughts via a range of creative mediums. Our workshop & training portfolio includes: mask movement & mask making; puppeteering skills and puppet making; exploring projection, shadow & movement; creation of large scale puppets, props & lanterns for parades and celebratory events; and a range of visual arts experiences (including sculpting with withies, wire portraits, silk paper making, and large-scale display artwork). Sometimes projects result in specific outcomes, sometimes projects are purely exploratory & experimental; all projects are process-based, participatory, playful and are based on a creative collaboration. Curious Cargo works with all age & ability groups, in mainstream and special educational, residential and community settings.

Philosophy:

Curious Cargo aims to create projects/experiences which enable young people to develop skills that will be valuable for life: initiative, creative problem solving, imagination, lateral thinking, and an ability to explore and experiment. Our philosophy & approach are very much inspired by the aims & philosophy of 'Reggio Emilio', with an ongoing emphasis on process based, child-led & enquiry-led activities and experiences.

Through our participation in past community arts and schools projects we have experienced many highlights including the ongoing realisation that young people and children are lively, naturally full of curiosity, and are learning all the time, either formally or informally about world around them and life in general. We've found that young people & children are more likely to take risks than adults, and consequently may be more open to exploring different creative approaches to teaching & learning. Seeing a child surprise themselves by what they've created/made/undertaken is always a buzz.

All young people and children have individual needs; a creative project developed in partnership with the school has the opportunity to engage with young people & children who may not be engaging with more formal ways of learning. Creativity can have a big part to play in re-engaging young people & children in the learning process, encouraging them to fully participate in their own unique learning journey, and expanding a child's experience of what is possible.

We aim to engage children and young people in a creative process where they are active participants in shaping the project as it unfolds. Hence all participants have a very real sense of ownership and are co-researchers, documenters and evaluators of the project.

We don't work to a set formula – the students are a crucial contributor to how a project unfolds.