

Sue Ratcliffe

Sue Ratcliffe has over 20 years experience working with children and young people, facilitating their engagement with art and the outdoors. She has been working with Swainswick Explorers since 2008 and is particularly gifted in her work with the youngest explorers.

Sue's expertise working with young children comes from a wealth of experience with pre-schools and nurseries in Bath, and through training that includes Early Years Professional Status (Best Practice, Bristol) and NVQ Level 3 in Playwork (Bath City College).

Having trained and worked originally as an artist, Sue is particularly interested in the creative process, seeing and helping children make and create with what they find. She has a BA(hons) in Fine Art from Manchester Metropolitan University, and has lectured at a number of art schools. Whilst artist in residence at a number of junior schools in the North West, Sue led workshops encouraging freedom in the creative process.

To complement her practical experience, Sue has certificates in First Aid and Food Hygiene and has completed short courses in Playing with Fire, Natural Crafts and Playwork in Small Places. She has an enhanced CRB.

Children and young people find Sue an inspiring facilitator of creativity in play and a caring companion on the adventure. She is motivated by a desire to see children gain a real sense of self, to be confident and develop life skills invaluable for their future.

SUE COMBINES PRE-SCHOOL AND PLAYLEADER EXPERTISE WITH HER BACKGROUND AS AN ARTIST AND LOVE OF NATURE TO FOCUS ON CREATIVITY IN PLAY.

Bath based **Swainswick Explorers** are specialists in providing stimulating and adventurous outdoor play and learning opportunities for children.

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NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL

AS A SPECIALIST IN EARLY YEARS, SUE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT ENCOURAGING YOUNG CHILDREN TO DISCOVER THE FEEL, LOOK AND SMELL OF NATURE - NOT ONLY TAKING CHILDREN INTO NATURE BUT ALSO TAKING NATURE INTO PRESCHOOL AND NURSERIES THROUGH DELIVERIES AND WORKSHOPS.



CREATIVITY

SUE DRAWS ON HER BACKGROUND AS AN ARTIST AND HER WORK WITH 5X5X5, LOOKING AT EARLY YEARS CREATIVITY AND CRITICAL THINKING, TO ENABLE CHILDREN TO BE FREE TO FOLLOW THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND DISCOVERY AS THEY GRAPPLE WITH THE CREATIVE POSSIBILITIES BEFORE THEM.



PLAYWORK

AS A PLAYLEADER AND PLAYWORKER SUE HAS WORKED WITH NURSERIES, PRE-SCHOOL, AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS, INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS. SHE WORKS WITH SWAINSWICK EXPLORERS AS A SUPPORT PLAYLEADER AND TAKES A CHILD INITIATED APPROACH TO FACILITATING PLAY SESSIONS.