

## Coram Creative Therapies: Film Transcript

Carrie Burnell: One of the many fantastic things that Coram does is to work with children with severe communication difficulties often due to traumatic experience. These children are often very young, very vulnerable and unable to understand or express how they feel. But once they start working with art therapists and music therapists the children learn to find their voice, start to communicate better, and start leading happier lives.

Clare: He was almost three when he had his diagnosis but it was a long process. Music therapy was the first sort of real therapy next to speech therapy we definitely wanted to engage him in straight away. And it's proven very successful.

Ring, ring. (door buzzer being pressed)

Music Therapist: hello?

Clare: Hi, it's Clare and Ernie for music therapy.

*Door opens.*

Clare: Every child with autism is different and they say if you have met a child with autism, you have only met one child with autism because they are all so different.

Jackie Lindeck: Um, it was a long time ago when Ernie arrived for his first session. He came with his dad. I think the striking thing was he couldn't concentrate on one thing, so he was moving very quickly from one instrument to another.

The way we built a relationship initially was through the movement of him walking. So he would walk and I would match the tempo of the music with his walking. And once he realized that that was what was going on he would start running or jumping or he would stop and realize, actually, it was him who was in control of the music.

Clare: It it's a very cool end response, Jackie will play something and Ernie will respond back. And so he understood better, pretty much straight away, the idea of 'oh that is how we talk'. Pretty much, that clicked for him.

Mary Rose Brady: Art or music doesn't discriminate in who it will support so we don't either. I mean we look at children with a sort of plethora of issues. We have seen Ernie transform through music. We have seen Ernie go from a little boy who was autistic spectrum and very limited in his capacity to express himself. And he actually comes alive within the music and it's absolutely wonderful to see that.

Clare: I think the biggest thing and Ernie coming here to Coram. But I think the biggest thing is just his confidence. He has really come along in such massive ways in a social context. I mean, there are so many benefits to music therapy.