



Spotlight on Artburst Ltd

Artburst Ltd was the joint winner of SLCN Innovation Award alongside the Life & Deaf Association at the 2013/14 Shine a Light Awards. Artburst caught judges' attention for their work providing educational workshops that improve the oracy and literacy skills of children and young people in London through drama, art, music and movement.

Artburst, a social enterprise based in Hackney, won the award in recognition of their three-year programme, *Speak Out*. The programme, which is run for young people in Hackney with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), is funded by The Big Lottery Fund and is run in partnership with Hackney Speech and Language Therapy Service.

Hackney has over 1,600 primary school children and over 900 early years children on the Speech and Language Register.

Speak Out has two strands: Make and Play and Artburst Minis. Make a Play focuses on under fives, and pupils in school years five and six making the primary to secondary school transition. Participants initially take part in a taster day session and then go onto week courses throughout the year. Children make costumes, props and sets for a play, develop a storyline and put on a show for parents and carers at the end of the week. Confidence is built as children participate in lots of different areas and work together.

Artburst Minis is run for children aged two to five with their parents or carers. Whilst any children can participate in afternoon sessions, the morning is reserved solely for those on the SLCN register. Artburst Minis encompasses a range of activities to develop children's communication skills and confidence. These include art, music, singing and signing.

Parents found the project really enjoyable with most reporting a noticeable positive change in their child's SLCN. Over 250 participants with SLCN reported an improvement in their educational attainment, confidence and self-esteem as a result of taking part in the Make a Play holiday schools and Artburst Minis sessions.

Nearly 300 parents improved their understanding of their children's learning needs and learnt ways to facilitate their child's language and communication skills by the end of the project.

