



Charity registration number 1089224

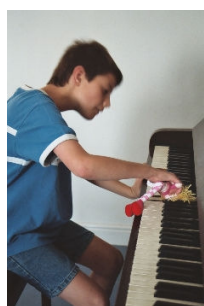
## A recreational facility for disabled children, their families, friends and schools



### Music at Thomley Activity Centre

#### **Music equipment for children of all ages and abilities**

Thomley offers a wide range of indoor and outdoor musical equipment for children of all abilities. The indoor music room is located in a place that will not disturb anyone, meaning that children can be as expressive as they like in their use of the piano, keyboards and a range of percussive instruments. Thomley's outdoor music area offers all kinds of fun, interactive and accessible instruments, such as a gong, giant xylophone, chimes and drainpipe drums, which can be enjoyed by individuals or large groups.



Many of Thomley's profoundly disabled children gain great stimulation from music, and some respond more to music than they do to any other activity we offer. Whatever their level of ability, music is an activity in which children can participate at any level, i.e. through playing an instrument, singing, dancing or purely listening. In a fun and interactive way, the indoor and outdoor musical instruments help facilitate children's development of:

- Rhythm and movement
- Coordination and motor skills
- Self expression and creativity
- Communication skills - both verbal and non verbal
- Concentration and listening skills
- Social skills - taking turns and group interaction
- Confidence and pride in musical achievements

#### **Supporting parents and carers**

Thomley offers a variety of facilitated music and movement workshops such as African drumming, junk percussion, story and song sessions or dancercise workshops. Parents and carers are welcomed in these workshops to enjoy playing music together with their children, to learn simple techniques with which to encourage children to participate in musical activities at home, or to learn approaches which can help to stimulate or relax their child. Through its 'Noticeboard Newsletter', Thomley also informs parents and carers of disability and autism friendly concerts which enable families to enjoy professional concerts without fear of making noise or moving around.

#### **Awareness raising about disability**

Thomley believes disabled children should have choice amongst a diverse range of opportunities. Thomley therefore shares its experiences and approaches to inclusion by welcoming visitors from the local community who, with greater understanding and acceptance of disability issues, are more able to include disabled children within community activities. So to ensure that music is made accessible to all, Thomley signposts visitors to appropriate suppliers of music equipment or facilitators of inclusive music workshops.

#### **Cost of providing art and craft activities**

The full cost of providing music activities is £22,627 per year, equivalent to **£4 per child per visit** and 4% of the centre's overall running costs. This cost covers the rent and serviceability of the 23m<sup>2</sup> music room space and outdoor music equipment, staff support, workshop facilitators and maintenance of musical instruments. £2,500 has been pledged towards these costs already, leaving a **shortfall of £20,127**.