

# JABADAO Developmental Movement Play (DMP) in Special Schools

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*"The intrinsic value of having a "voice", being understood and making a contribution valued by others - having a place in the world - cannot be underestimated, and here is a way in which every child can have this experience.*

## About DMP

JABADAO Developmental Movement Play is a child-led, play-based, non-verbal movement approach based in movement play practice and developmental movement theory.

It aims for:

- i) joyous engagement and interaction
- ii) pleasure in movement and the body
- iii) understanding of, and support for, developmental movement - one of the things that underpins all development, learning and wellbeing
- iv) many more detailed areas of curriculum learning can be observed within these overall aims

Developmental Movement sessions are led by the child and might focus on one or both of: interaction / play and developmental movement drives. Staff become skilled at seeing, and separating, these.

It is an interactive approach, not an intervention. This means that adults focus on creating the conditions for engagement, reading movement and supporting engagement. Benefits emerge and are recorded in simple ways to support 'Possible Lines of Development'. Adults do not enter sessions with specific pre-planned targets.

## Training focuses on:

- how to observe the developmental movement sequence in all children's movement, and particularly with children who have the greatest movement challenges
- ways to support child-led movement with all children (ASD, PMLD and LSD)
- how to create an environment that supports DMP fully - in a separate space (often a multi-sensory area) and in the classroom
- how this approach fits alongside other body and movement approaches in school
- safeguarding guidance for work that might be very physical and close

*"Absolutely vital and fascinating in terms of underpinning and developing the physical resilience to build up students developmentally".*

## Modelling as part of training

Seeing the approach in action from a specialist practitioner can make all the difference. We set up a DMP room with you (no stuff, no words, ambient music that we bring, and low lighting - that we can bring as well) and the staff who have trained join us as we work with students you identify. This gives you a chance to see how to engage your most challenging students - or simply to work out who might benefit most.

*"It was amazing to have the opportunity to see what can happen when the right environment, resources and time are made available."*