Integrating Creative Expression in the Classroom

Loretta Rotolo, M.A., LCAT, RDT
Registered Drama Therapist; Licensed Creative Arts Therapist
orolori@gmail.com

Jamie Blumenthal, MA, MT-BC
Board Certified Music Therapist
And Artist
musictherapy@msn.com
www.jamie-blumenthal.com
707 695-4145

Over the past 30 years, Loretta has been fortunate to work in the health and human service field with children and families, in direct service roles as a therapist and advocate, as well as in management capacities. Her experience includes working with a variety of populations with diverse needs and abilities: older adults, children ages 1-17 with developmental and/or physical disabilities, and adults in treatment for alcohol and substance abuse.

More recently, Loretta has worked with seniors with cognitive and physical impairments, as a creative arts therapist, using expressive arts to promote social and emotional well-being and engagement. In both Michigan and New York, Loretta has been an adjunct professor teaching Creative Arts Integration in classroom and therapeutic settings and has taught Creative Dramatics and Improvisation for children and teens for over 20 years. She has worked extensively with community health initiatives in both program development and management capacities, with years of experience in community-building and coordinating inter-agency collaborative councils to improve the quality of life for individuals and families.

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rotolori@gmail.com

Jamie Blumenthal, MA, MT-BC
Music Therapist
musictherapy@msn.com
www.jamie-blumenthal.com
707 695-4145

Jamie has taught music therapy at several University extension programs, provided music classes through the senior education program at Santa Rosa Junior College. She has given presentations on music therapy at national and regional conferences. In addition, Jamie has published articles on the use of Creative Arts Therapies to heal grief and loss.

WWW.jamie-blumenthal.com
**Integrating Creative Expression in the Classroom:**

Discover new ways to reach, teach, stimulate, engage and encourage students through interactive, creative learning experiences. Integrating creative arts into the classroom and providing experiential learning opportunities can address a variety of learning styles (**the multiple intelligences model**) and make curriculum and units come alive.

**EXPERIENTIAL CLASS:**

Exploring interactive, creative, fun activities, interventions and strategies to encourage self-expression, participation and foster group cooperation.

*Together we will discover ways to utilize:*

- Improvisation and spontaneity
- Creative Drama
- Storytelling/Story Dramatization
- Language Arts/Poetry
- Sensory Awareness
- Learning through Music
- Rhythm Games
- Art expression
- Movement/non-verbal communication
- Interactive Game
- Reinforce curriculum/subject material
- Increase students’ understanding through active learning

**In this experiential series,** we will explore ways to utilize creative drama, theatre games, storytelling, poetry, movement, music, team building and interactive games to enrich the learning experience in your classroom. Providing opportunities for self-expression, creativity and spontaneity, can foster the development of language, cognitive and motor skills, highlight individual strengths and talents improve attention and concentration; invite creative problem solving encourage teamwork and cooperation and create an environment where active learning can take place.

**Integrating Creative Expression in the Classroom**

- Increases focus and attention
- Encourages creative self-expression
- Teaches active listening
- Builds trust and respect
- Supports multiple learning styles
- Acknowledges and incorporates diversity
- Promotes cooperative and supportive groups
- Develops mutually respectful relationships
- Allows us to see and appreciate other’s strengths and talents

Series: Workshop offered as 2 half day sessions or 1 full day session.

Option to have follow up coaching in the fall.