



Amber Music Practitioners

The Amber Trust is seeking freelance music practitioners to work with blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families, as part of our Little Amber, AmberPlus and With Music in Mind music services, and to run music workshops in schools and community settings. We operate across the UK, and are particularly looking for practitioners able to work in London, Essex, Northampton, Scotland, Kent, Berkshire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

Job Title: Amber Music Practitioner

1. Conditions: Ad hoc freelance work
2. Location: At the homes/schools of the children/young people involved in our Little Amber, AmberPlus and With Music in Mind schemes
3. Responsible to: Music Services Manager

Charity Overview

At The Amber Trust, we believe that visual impairment and other disabilities should not prevent children and young people accessing appropriate musical opportunities. The Amber Trust was founded in 1995 with the aim to provide blind and partially sighted children, including those with additional disabilities, the best possible chance to meet their musical needs and aspirations.

We have grown to become the only national charity dedicated to supporting visually impaired children with their musical development and education. We aim to enhance the lives of as many of the 25,000 visually impaired children in the UK as possible through music, and to promote high quality music provision.

For more on The Amber Trust please see <https://www.ambertrust.org/>.

Job Description

The Amber Trust runs three dedicated music services aimed at supporting the families of visually impaired children to engage their child in music at home or when out and about. These are:

Little Amber: for children aged 0 – 5 and their families. Please see <https://littleamber.ambertrust.org/>.

AmberPlus: for children aged 5 – 18 who have complex needs and their families. Please see <https://amberplus.ambertrust.org/>.

With Music in Mind: for children up to the age of 18 who have neurodegenerative disease and their families. Please see <https://withmusicinmind.ambertrust.org/>

The aim of our music services is to work with families to engage their child in music by encouraging and modelling appropriate, fun and easy musical activities; empowering caregivers to feel confident to embed music into their child's daily life. This in turn can support musical development, wider development, and overall well-being. Families receive four home visits per year from our music practitioners, alongside a pack of music activity cards and a set of percussion instruments, which they can use in the sessions and at any time in between. Each visit lasts up to two hours.

Our music services are delivered by a team of freelance music practitioners (music teachers, therapists, community musicians), who work in family homes across the UK. We are currently seeking music practitioners to join our ever-expanding team. The role involves:

- Visiting each child/young person you are assigned four times per year for sessions lasting up to two hours
- Working with visually impaired children and their families, engaging in music, suggesting and modelling musical strategies to enhance musical and wider development, including social and communication skills.
- Monitoring the musical and general progress of the child(ren) you are working with, using the Sounds of Intent framework. See <https://www.soundsofintent.app/beta/>
- Reflecting on your own practice and completing 'note of visit' forms after each session with families.
- Liaising with family members to arrange suitable times for visits
- Attending regular training sessions given by The Amber Trust

Person specification

ESSENTIAL

- Experience of working with young children and their families.
- Experience of working with children in the early years and/or with children who have special educational needs and disabilities.
- Experience of music education / music therapy / community music
- Strong musical skills
- Knowledge of the *Sounds of Intent* framework, or a willingness to learn about it
- Willingness to adhere to The Amber Trust's values and policies
- Confidence to work alone
- Excellent organisational and interpersonal skills
- Exemplary communication skills, including the ability to speak confidently, sensitively, empathetically and tactfully.
- Confidence to liaise with families to arrange session dates and times.
- Confidence to monitor the musical and general progress of the children you are working with.
- Confidence to suggest musical strategies to families.
- Ability to evaluate own work.
- Available to work at times arranged in negotiation with the families you are assigned.
- Willingness to travel to families' homes within your geographical region, preferably using your own mode of transport.
- Registered as self-employed.
- Hold a current enhanced DBS certificate or Scottish PVG certificate.

DESIRABLE

- Experience of working with blind and partially sighted children
- Qualification in music, music education or music therapy

Terms and Conditions

Please note that the role will involve occasional freelance work. *It would not be a contract of employment and there would be no guarantee of work.* We anticipate that you would work with a maximum of 4-5 different families at any given time. Practitioners will be assigned families according to geographical fit and relevant experience.

Rate of pay: £100 per session. Please note, this fee reflects roughly half a day's work (session planning, the music sessions itself lasting approx. 2 hours, travel to and from the session, the time required to arrange visits and complete 'note-of-visit' forms after sessions). If a session is cancelled by a family with less than 24 hours' notice, practitioners will still be paid the session fee.

Notice of termination: The appointment may be terminated by either side with a month's notice.

- To apply, please complete the Amber Music Practitioner application form using the following link: <https://forms.gle/Vu6gR3CBjrbRhDwY9>
- The deadline for applications is the 8th July with interviews taking place online at the end of July and beginning of August.
- If shortlisted, you will be contacted and invited to attend an interview online.
- If you have any access requirements, or if we can make any reasonable adjustments so that the application or interview process is more accessible to you, please email hannah.marsden@ambertrust.org.

For more information about the role please contact Hannah Marsden, Music Services Manager by emailing Hannah.marsden@ambertrust.org.