



The BUSS Model – Level Two

Building Underdeveloped Sensorimotor Systems in children who have experienced developmental trauma Developed and Presented by Sarah Lloyd & Katie Wrench

Background to BUSS Model

The BUSS model was developed by Sarah Lloyd to be helpful when children have experienced developmental trauma. It's based on the understanding that for children to thrive they need consistent, attuned caregiving and it's through these relationships that babies and young children develop good bodily and emotional regulation. Having a good sense of their body is crucial for children to manage games, friendships, and school, all of which are such an important part of childhood.

BUSS is concerned with what are called foundation sensorimotor systems, the systems that grow through lots of nurture, touch and movement in their early months and years. These systems give us a sense of ourselves on a bodily level – so things like having good balance and co-ordination as well as understanding information from inside our bodies (e.g. when we feel hungry or cold, and managing the sounds and feel of the outside world without being overwhelmed by them). Within nurturing relationships, babies progress through critical patterns of movement that allow the brain and central nervous system to develop so that we can manage to do all of this without using much conscious attention.

Where children have had a difficult start in life, these processes have been disrupted. However, by bringing together sensory integration theory and attachment theory alongside an understanding of the impact of trauma on the developing brain, it's possible to use games and activities, working with parents / carers and their children to rebuild these systems and help children to thrive.

Level Two Training

Level Two training is designed to teach participants how to work with families / carers to assess the state of development of an individual child or young person's foundation sensorimotor systems and learn how gaps in these systems can be filled using games and activities that families can do. There is an expectation that all participants will complete the assignment task of recording themselves practising the assessment on two typically developing children of different ages between day two and day three of the Level Two training.

Using teaching, case studies, videos, small group work and hearing from parents and therapists experienced in using the model, participants will develop their skills in the administration of the assessment, starting with children and young people who are typically developing. This will form a good foundation for learning how to use the assessment with families whose children have underdeveloped sensorimotor systems. Participants will also become familiar with the kinds of activities used to support the development of underdeveloped sensorimotor systems and how to grade them according to the needs of the child / family.

Suitable For

This course is suitable for participants with a prerequisite core professional training in either Social Work, Clinical Psychology, Occupational Therapy or Child Psychotherapy. There may, on rare occasions, be an exception to this - in such circumstances, decisions will be made on a case by case basis, but the key factor will be the person working within an appropriate Multidisciplinary Team. Participants must also have attended the Introduction to BUSS webinar and successfully completed Level One BUSS training.

About the Trainers

Sarah Lloyd is a Specialist Occupational Therapist and Author of the BUSS Model. Sarah has published 2 books: Improving Sensory Processing in Traumatized Children (2016) and Building Sensorimotor Systems in Children with Developmental Trauma (2020).

Katie Wrench is Head of Clinical Services for the BUSS Model. Katie joined the BUSS team in 2020 after many years leading the Therapeutic Social Work Team in Leeds. This is a multidisciplinary local authority team offering consultation to social work teams, as well as support to foster carers, birth families and direct work with children and young people. Katie is a Social Worker and Art Psychotherapist and has published a number of books for social care practitioners about creative practice, including life story work.

Vicky, Lindsey and Ruth are adoptive parents who have experience using the BUSS Model with their own children. They make up our Parent Mentor team and are involved in BUSS training, as well as supporting families through the BUSS programme.

Dates: This is a three day course – date to be confirmed

Venue: Days 1 & 2 - Adoptionplus, Moulsoe Business Centre, Moulsoe, Nr. Milton Keynes, MK16 0FJ
Day 3 – to be held virtually

Price: £600 + VAT
Lunch and refreshments are included

Booking: For further information please visit www.adoptionplus.co.uk or to register interest to be notified of the next date please email trainingwithus@adoptionplus.co.uk

www.adoptionplus.co.uk



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