BUILDING COMMUNITY IN EDUCATION





Ubuntu:
Embracing The Power of Community

Programme Brochure

Learning Through Play

Healthy Relationships



In partnership with FERRY LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sponsors THE UBELE INITIATIVE, The Phoenix Fund, The Phoenix Way

www.awakengenius.org

VRU | MAYOR OF LONDON VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT

HOMECOOKED

Why Awaken Genius?

"I AM BECAUSE WE ARE"



Weaving Ubuntu, the Arts, and building healthy relationships in Math and English:

Awaken Genius believes the emerging world must leverage our most vulnerable children's untapped potential and innate capacities to learn and awaken their unique talents and gifts. Once awakened these children will become agents of change.
At Awaken Genius, we believe that nurturing a culture of Ubuntu is not just an idea but a way of life.

Applying the Ubuntu culture, with its core principle of **"I am because we are,"** to reduce challenging behaviour in children involves creating an environment that promotes empathy, understanding, and cooperation.
By fostering a sense of interconnectedness and shared responsibility within the community, we will encourage positive behaviour and reduce challenging behaviour in vulnerable children by helping them experience feeling calm and safe.

Awaken Genius
Aims and objectives

1 PARTNERING WITH SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES:

We team up with primary schools and community places to help children transition from primary to secondary school better. We do this by bringing in the Ubuntu culture, which is all about building healthy relationships so everyone feels like they belong and are happy.

2 CREATIVE LEARNING CURRICULUM:

Our teaching plan matches the National Curriculum, but we teach in fun and meaningful ways. We focus on things like using the mind and body together, being creative, moving around, working together, understanding feelings, imagining, managing our emotions, and using all our senses to learn. We also talk about finding our purpose in life and how everyone doing well helps the whole community.

3 COMMUNITY FAMILIES WELLBEING DAYS:

We also hold building community families wellbeing day's for parents and children together to help them bond better. Though the creative arts, parents connect deeply with their children and other families.

4 REDUCING PROBLEMS FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN:

Our goal is to help Black children in deprived parts of London early on. We want to stop them from having behaviour problems because of traumatic experiences. Our programme can result in fewer children being excluded from school or sent to Pupil Referral Units.

Awaken Genius
Aims and objectives

5 IMPROVING HAPPINESS AND RELATIONSHIPS:

Through our programme, we want children to feel happier and get along better with themselves and others.

6 BOOSTING LOVE FOR LEARNING:

We aim to make children really excited about learning new things and help them see their goals in life more clearly.

7 BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND EMPATHY:

Children should feel more sure of themselves and understand how others feel better.

8 PREPARING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL:

We want children to be academically, socially, and emotionally feel ready for the big change when they move to secondary school.

9 REDUCING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES:

Our programme also hopes to make children feel less stressed and worried, so they can stay mentally healthy.

Why Communities?

It takes a community to raise a child



Let Me Tell You A Story...

An anthropologist studying the habits and customs of an African tribe found himself surrounded by children most days. So, he decided to play a little game with them.
He managed to get candy from the nearest town and put it all in a decorated basket at the foot of a tree.
When he called the children and suggested they play the game.
When the anthropologist said "now", the children had to run to the tree and the first one to get there could have all the candy to him/herself.
So, the children all lined up waiting for the signal.
When the anthropologist said now", all of the children took each other by the hand ran together towards the tree.

They all arrived at the same time, divided up the candy, sat down and began to happily munch away.
The anthropologist went over to them
and asked why they had all run together when any one of them could have had the candy all to themselves.
The children responded: "Ubuntu. How could any one of us be happy if all the others were sad?"
Ubuntu is a philosophy of African tribes that can be summed up as:

"I am what I am because of who we all are."

UBUNTU

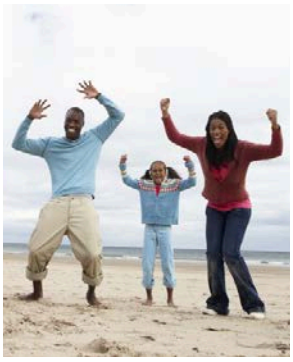
Embracing the Power of Community

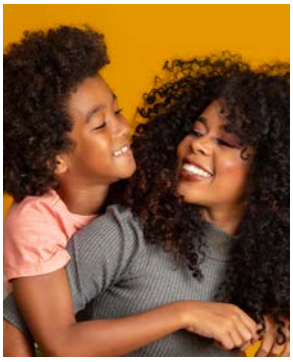


Ubuntu represents the belief that we are all interconnected and that our actions impact those around us. It emphasises the importance of community, empathy, and mutual support.



Ubuntu, deeply rooted in African culture, emphasises our interconnectedness and how our actions affect others. It stresses the value of community, empathy, and support. For families and children, Ubuntu teaches cooperation,





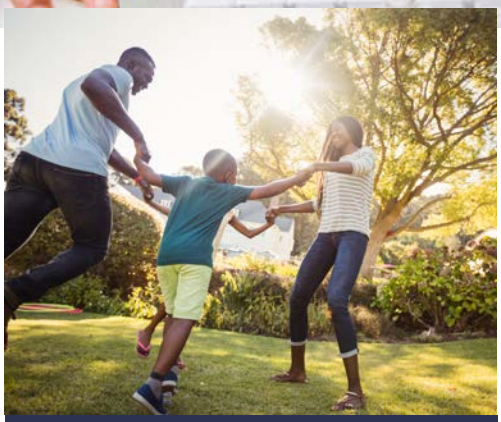
kindness, and responsibility, fostering empathy and inclusivity. Families embody Ubuntu by nurturing strong bonds and engaging with their communities, promoting positive change. Ultimately, Ubuntu inspires families to recognise their place in a broader network of humanity and to embrace compassion and collaboration for a better world.

Ubuntu signifies the following for children and families:



Belonging:

Recognising that every individual is an integral part of a larger community, where they are valued and accepted for who they are.



Empathy:

Cultivating the ability to understand and share the feelings of others, fostering compassion and kindness towards fellow community members.

Mutual Support

Understanding that we thrive when we support and uplift one another, whether it's through sharing resources, offering a listening ear, or lending a helping hand.

Collective Responsibility:

Acknowledging that we all play a role in creating a nurturing environment for children to grow and flourish, and taking responsibility for the well-being of the entire community.

Creating Healthy Relationships in Education



Step 1
Making Friends:

We want to make a fun and therapeutic safe space where children can get along and share big ideas.

We'll do activities like singing, drawing, meditation, body rhythms, and games that help children understand their emotions and work well with others.

Children will also get to tell their stories and learn about Ubuntu, which is about caring for each other and working together as a community. We'll start and end each session with a special saying to make everyone feel like they belong.

We'll also show videos of children who have overcome tough times and followed their dreams, so children know they can do the same.



Step 2
Learning Together:

We'll mix in math and English with the fun activities, like art and working with friends. We'll use stories and books about community and creativity to teach these subjects in a fun way. Math will be hands-on and exciting, using rhythms and real-life examples.

Arts show children What's Inside



Being creative isn't just about children expressing themselves outwardly. It's also about connecting with their inner selves — their imagination, their soul, their spirit.

Whether it's painting, drawing, sculpting, or performing arts, children have the opportunity to experiment with various art forms under the guidance of experienced facilitators.

Art isn't just about what others see; it's about tapping into children's deepest thoughts and feelings.

It's like stepping into a world where their minds and hearts come alive, helping them find meaning and purpose in their lives.

Benefits of The Arts



Develops Creativity & Imagination

- Children engage creativity and imagination, making learning enjoyable and meaningful.
- Children learn skills like focus, patience, and emotional control, which is important for academic and life success.
- Connects children: Doing creative things together helps children trust each other and feel closer, no matter their differences.
- Helps children understand themselves: When children are creative, they explore their thoughts and feelings, connecting with their imagination and what makes them who they are.

Builds Confidence

- Cultivates a love for learning, spark motivation, and brings joy and happiness to the learning process.
- Encourages happiness: Children having fun and expressing themselves freely without worrying about being perfect makes them happy, regardless of what's going on around them.
- Builds confidence: When a child tries new things and children like what we do, it makes them feel good about themselves and more sure of what they can do.





Nurturing Community Wellness

Curriculum



Unit 1: Embracing Ubuntu Spirit

In Unit 1, children dive into learning about Ubuntu, which is a big part of our programme. Our facilitators focus on bringing out the best in each child and creating a supportive classroom where everyone feels valued. We encourage children to set goals, share their thoughts on important topics, and use positive affirmations to boost their confidence and well-being. By working together towards common goals and forming strong friendships, we help children feel connected and ready for the next step in their education.

Unit 2: Embracing Ubuntu Spirit

in Unit 2, children continue to learn about Ubuntu with the help of our 'Awaken Genius' facilitators, who always show positive behaviour. We use stories and talks to explore creative thinking and different types of intelligence. Fun creative activities like imagining help children remember what they learn and feel good about themselves. We also start exciting math and reading lessons that prepare them for secondary school. By diving into interesting texts, we encourage children to enjoy reading and learn a lot, all while embracing the Ubuntu spirit.

Unit 3: Empowering Unique Purpose

In Unit 3, we help children discover their own special life goals. Through reading, they learn about real and made-up people who inspire them. They practice talking well in front of others and sharing their ideas through role play and debates. They also get better at writing so they can express themselves clearly for different situations and people. When it comes to reading, they get better at understanding and figuring things out. In math, they learn about numbers, fractions, and how to do different operations in fun and useful ways.

Unit 4: Finding Purpose in Learning

In Unit 4, we highlight how important it is to know why we're learning in school and life. We keep teaching children about people who found their purpose, while also helping them with important language skills like words, punctuation, and grammar. In this unit, students improve their reading by becoming fluent, understanding deeply, and learning new words. They also tackle important math concepts such as addition, subtraction, handling money, working with numbers, measuring length, and finding the perimeter. We make learning enjoyable and engaging through fun activities and visual aids.



Unit 5: Unleashing Creative Genius

In Unit 5, we help children see that everyone has their own creative talents waiting to be discovered. Our facilitators inspire them to keep trying, be imaginative, work together, and never give up. In reading and writing, students get really good at understanding what they read and writing their own stories. We also talk a lot to help them learn more and express themselves clearly. And when it comes to math, we make it fun by teaching topics like decimals, ratios, and other topics in ways that are easy to do together.

Unit 6: Transition and Reflection

In the last part of our programme, we bring together everything children have learned to help them get ready for secondary school education. We keep talking about important people who made a difference in the world in reading and writing, and we also help them get better at solving problems in math. At the end of the programme, we have a special event where we celebrate what everyone has accomplished together. We finish by encouraging children to keep dreaming big, trying new things, and always learning and doing good things in the world.

Curriculum Team

Our curriculum team is made up of highly experienced educators, therapists, healers, psychologists, and other experts who are passionate about what they do. Also, Dr. Nicola Abbott and a team of neuroscientists from University College London have joined our team. We're all focused on helping children at Awaken Genius grow in every way—creatively, socially, emotionally, and academically. We want to make sure every child starts secondary school feeling confident and ready for success.



Building Community Family day

This programme is for parents and their children to have fun together and strengthen their bond through therapeutic art and activities. We want parents to see how important it is to connect with other families, have fun developing stronger relationships.

FAMILY-TO-FAMILY SUPPORT

Our programme brings many families together to support each other, not just in class but also at home and in the community. This helps everyone involved to get help when they need it and feel more connected.

STRENGTHENING FAMILY COHESION

As parents and children strengthen their bonds, feelings of school and community connectivity deepen, conflict decreases, and engagement with education and community resources increases.

"I AM BECAUSE WE ARE"



MEET
the team



DR. NICOLA ABBOTT
PUPIL DATA AND PROGRAMME ANALYSIS

Dr. Nicola is a Developmental Social Psychologist based at the Institute of University College London. In her research, she is interested in tackling school bullying.



VICKI GEORGE
LEAD ACADEMIC ART FACILITATOR

Vicki, a seasoned teacher and performer, is eager to share her talents in the classroom. With a knack for making lessons enjoyable through creative arts.



MICHAEL CLARKE
LEAD ART FACILITATOR

Michael is the founder of Awaken Genius and a community and creative art facilitator, Michael understands how important strong relationships are in education. He has been in education for over 14 years.

MEET
the team



SHEREENE THOMAS
ACADEMIC ART FACILITATOR

Shereene, is a caring and nurturing teacher from Haringey with over 15 years of experience as a primary school teacher. She loves teaching and her journey comes full circle as she teaches in the very school she attended.



NATASHA JOHN-BAPTISTE
ACADEMIC ART FACILITATOR

Natasha John-Baptiste has over 20 years of experience in education, focusing on children with special needs and disabilities. She believes in the power of positive relationships and the importance of community support in raising children.



OLUSOLA ADEBIYI
ART FACILITATOR

Olusola Adebiyi, known as Sola Story, is a Creative Facilitator and Performance Storyteller with an international profile. As a Programme Director and Mentor, he empowers individuals through creative expression and specialises in community education, focusing on unlocking potential and fostering creativity.

MEET
the team



ASAFO GYATA
ART FACILITATOR

Asafo Gyata, an educator with over 20 years of experience, integrates arts and culture like music, drumming, dance, poetry, and martial arts into teaching to engage children and enrich their learning.



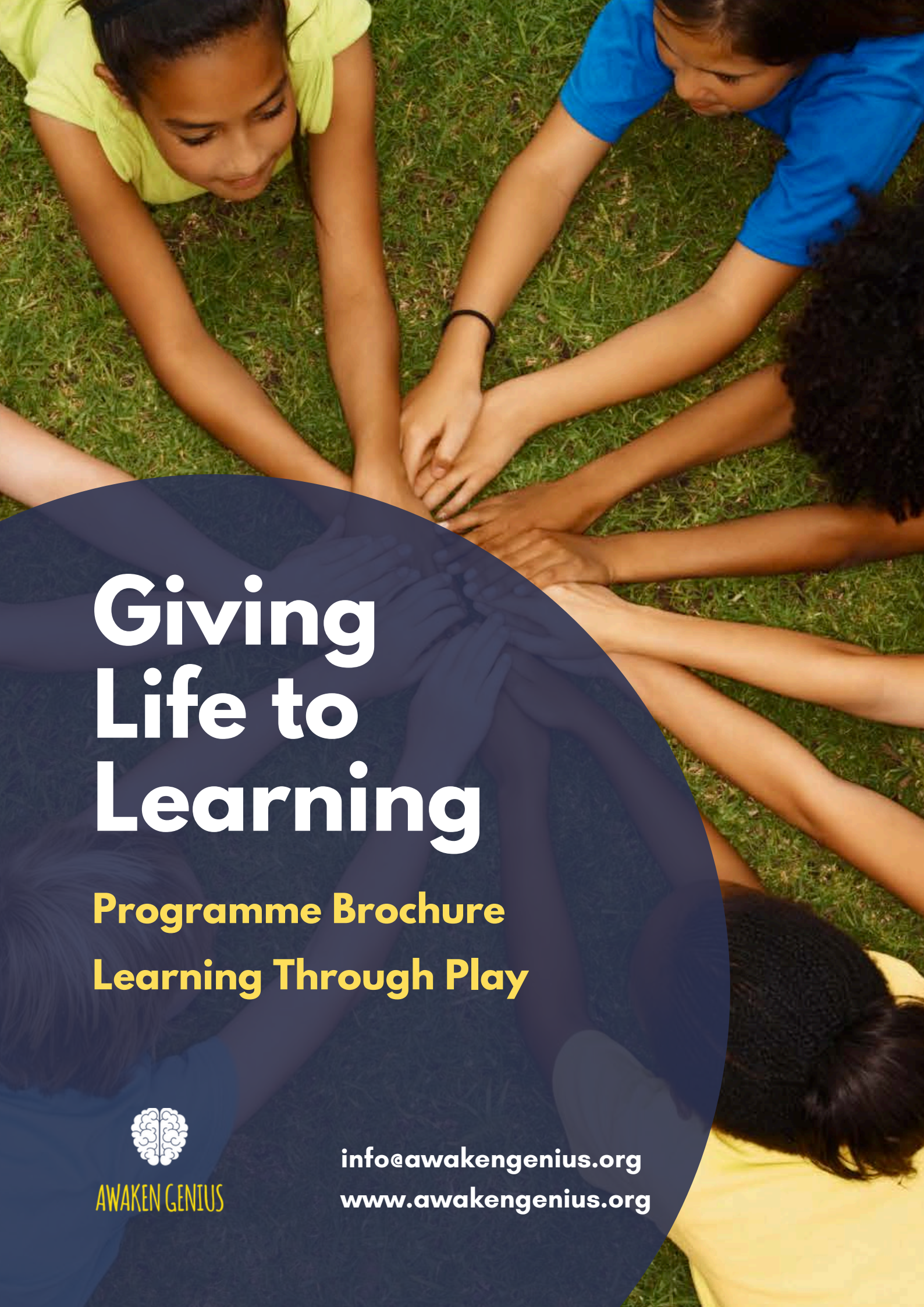
RILENE DE SOUSA
ART FACILITATOR

Rilene de Sousa is originally from northeastern Brazil. She's an experienced capoeira teacher, and has co-founded her own capoeira group, "Amazonas Capoeira". She uses Capoeira to build healthy relationships and confidence in children.



NATALÍ ANGELA
ART FACILITATOR

Natalí Angela is a passionate wellbeing educator. She's a forest school facilitator and a Yoga teacher. And she encourages play and experimentation with various materials and media, such as clay, drawing, movement, and acting.



Giving Life to Learning

Programme Brochure

Learning Through Play

AWAKEN GENIUS

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