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| **7.3** | **Develop their ambitions**  Nurturing creativity | |
| **Young person:** | |  |
| **Practitioner:** | |  |
| **Date:** | |  |

Young people with **learning difficulties**, **poor educational attainment** and **social difficulties** are **significantly overrepresented** in youth justice caseloads.

For these young people, **traditional educational and vocational routes can be a challenge**, and given the high value society places on academic and vocational skills, **these young people can often be left feeling like failures when they don’t do as well as others.**

Furthermore, the opportunity to exercise creativity is something recognised as being **important for each and every one of us**. And for young people who offend it can have **particular benefits in encouraging desistance**.

***‘Creativity’*** doesn’t just mean **creating something** (like art or crafts). It can be **doing something** (like drama), **trying something new** or different or **experimenting with experiences** or **new ways of expressing yourself**.

**Tailored creative activities** give the opportunity for young people to **engage in strength (rather than deficit) based activities** to **build their self-confidence** and **sense of accomplishment.**

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|  | **Explore and nurture young people’s creativity, without focussing only on traditional ETE routes. Consider…**   * What are they **good at**? * What do they **like doing**? * What can they **make or do that others can’t**? * How do they **enjoy expressing themselves** or **passing their time**? |