



Lighthouse Pedagogy Trust

Dialogue Bite Size Session: Understanding Social Pedagogy

What comes to mind when
you hear the word
'pedagogy'?

Defining Social Pedagogy



An academic discipline distinct from the concept of 'pedagogy' as used in education, but which draws on core theories from education, sociology, psychology and philosophy



An integrative and coherent perspective on supporting learning, well-being and social inclusion using relationship-centred practice to address social inequality



The tools and approaches used by social pedagogues in a range of contexts, such as schools and children's homes

Defining Social Pedagogy (2)

In social pedagogy, the emphasis is on fostering **relationships, creating a supportive environment**, and facilitating **learning** through meaningful experiences.

Eichsteller and Holthoff (2011)

Social pedagogy is most commonly described as '**education in its broadest sense**'. It includes the social and pastoral... **it is where care and education meet**.

Petrie (2009) and Cameron & Moss (2011)

- All social pedagogues agree on common methods, approaches, and ways of working
- There is a long history of social pedagogy in western Europe, yet it is almost unheard of in the UK
- In several European countries, early years teachers, social workers, youth workers and residential care workers are the same profession and all train in social pedagogy
- It's a way of thinking about both social care and education as one and the same thing



Key concepts



Haltung

Underlying attitudes and values



Holistic Education

Focusing on the development of the whole person

PPP

The 3Ps

Professional, Personal, Private



The common Third

Shared activities



Head Heart Hands

Using your knowledge, emotions and capabilities



Reflective practice

Critical self-reflection



Empowerment

Developing agency and autonomy



Relational practice

Building trust and connection



Participation

Involving people in decision-making

Key Concepts: The Diamond Model



(Eichsteller & Holthoff, 2012)

SP Training in Germany and Denmark

	Germany	Denmark
Education Path	Vocational training or university degree	Professional bachelor's degree (PAU)
Duration	2–5 years (depending on path)	3.5 years
Institutions	Fachschulen / Universities of Applied Sciences	University Colleges
Curriculum Focus	Theory + practical placements in youth work, early childhood, and disability care	Emphasis on pedagogy, psychology, social work, and practical experience
Practical Training	Integrated internships / fieldwork	Includes several extended internships
Final Qualification	Staatlich anerkannter Erzieher / BA in Social Pedagogy	Professional Bachelor of Social Education
Professional Status	Recognised and regulated profession	High professional status with broad scope

Josephine Schneider House - Copenhagen



Social pedagogy in the UK

- Challenges in compatibility with UK culture and systems
- Growth of professional networks such as the Social Pedagogy Professional Association
- Some pilot projects with mixed results
- Increasing interest in response to a heavily regulated and often punitive system



People



Place



Purpose



Practice

Impact



**Holistic
development**



**Strong
relationships**



**Empowerment and
participation**



**Positive
culture**

Questions



Emmanuel Akpan-Inwang

emmanuel@lptrust.org.uk

www.lptrust.org.uk

@inwang

@lp_trust

Lighthouse Pedagogy Trust