

Ways of engaging

One of the lessons learned from the project was about ways of engaging. Working with five lead artists on thirteen creative projects over three years provided the opportunity to understand much more about the ways families might engage.

Crucially, the creative projects revealed the need to accommodate a variety of learning styles within one session. As well as the wide age range, there were different approaches and interests to be catered for, differences that did not simply equate to age bands. One individual might approach their learning and enjoyment in many different ways during the lifetime of a project.

The property was encountered in a variety of ways: all these ways were appropriate to different people at different times; all are valid.



Diving in: wanting to know all about the place and its stories, wanting to be immersed in it physically and through the acquiring of

knowledge. *Families meet a volunteer who remembers the parties Mr Hatfeild held at Morden Hall Park. They want to know where the punts were, what they had for tea, and where Fred climbed over the wall. They want to re-create the parties.*



Bouncing off: picking up on details or characters, and relating them immediately to the here and now. *A dad walks around the Entrance Hall at Osterley, imagining the party he would hold there, and who he'd invite.*



Exploring: wanting to learn more, relate this to your own experiences and interests, and feed your own creativity. *Families look at some objects*

in Ham House that were very special to their owners. They explore why these objects held a special significance, and then think about their own special objects from home, incorporating them into puppet plays.



Dialogue: the visitor's own experience and the stimulus in the property shed light on each other. *Families look at the family tree of a family who*

lived in Sutton House. They make their own family trees, and some discover links to the family at Sutton House, and share local knowledge. This brings a greater understanding of the Huguenots, and throws light on their own situations.