**“We provide a creative, child-led woodworking studio that sits within the universal and early help levels of the continuum of need. Our sessions help children build confidence, resilience, and practical skills, while offering a safe and nurturing space for those with emerging emotional, behavioural, or social needs. We can complement Early Help or CIN plans as part of a holistic package of support.”**

**Supporting Children Across the Continuum of Need**

At Smart Hands Studio, we are proud to provide a safe, creative, and child-centred environment for children who benefit from additional support. Our alternative provision is designed to complement existing educational and social care plans, offering children a unique opportunity to thrive through hands-on, meaningful woodwork projects.

We work with schools, families, and professionals to help children build confidence, resilience, and skills in a nurturing, trauma-informed setting.

**What is the “Continuum of Need”?**

In safeguarding and children’s services, the **continuum of need** is a framework used to assess and respond to children at different levels of vulnerability or risk — from universal services, through targeted early help, to statutory intervention.

Surrey’s model outlines four broad levels of need:

* **Level 1: Universal needs** — support available to all children and families (e.g. schools, GPs, youth clubs).
* **Level 2: Targeted early help** — additional support for emerging needs, often delivered through early help teams or family support.
* **Level 3: Complex needs** — coordinated multi-agency support to prevent escalation, usually through Child in Need (CIN) plans.
* **Level 4: Acute needs** — statutory intervention, such as child protection plans or care proceedings.

**How Smart Hands Studio Fits In**

Smart Hands Studio offers an alternative, non-stigmatising space that supports children at **Levels 1 and 2** and can also complement **Level 3** plans as part of a wider package of support.

We create a calm, structured yet flexible environment that helps children engage, regulate, and reconnect with their learning and their own sense of achievement.

**✅ Level 1: Universal Needs**

We provide a safe, nurturing space for all children, including those at risk of isolation, low confidence, or low engagement in traditional education.

* Hands-on activities promote resilience, self-esteem, teamwork, and communication.
* Builds protective factors by giving children a sense of pride and accomplishment.

**✅ Level 2: Targeted Early Help**

For children showing early signs of disengagement, behavioural challenges, or emotional needs, our studio provides:

* A trauma-aware, child-led setting to help them regulate and reconnect.
* Support for Early Help plans through positive role-modelling and constructive activity.

**✅ Level 3: Complex Needs**

For children on **Child in Need (CIN) plans** or monitored by social care:

* We can be written into plans as a therapeutic or developmental activity.
* Offers continuity and stability during times of disruption at home or school.

**What We Offer**

Our approach is underpinned by:

* **Child-led learning** — empowering children to take ownership of their progress.
* **Nurturing environment** — trauma-informed, calm, and predictable.
* **Skill development** — building practical, transferable skills and confidence.
* **Positive relationships** — our staff act as trusted adults in a non-judgemental space.
* **Observation and feedback** — we can contribute to wider team understanding of a child’s needs, progress, and triggers.

**For Schools and Professionals**

We welcome referrals from schools, local authorities, and social care teams looking for a creative, supportive alternative provision option.