

ROMAN MUSIC THERAPY SERVICES

Using the Power of Music to Facilitate Growth

Music Therapy in Early Childhood

Music therapy is an established healthcare profession that uses music to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals of all ages. Young children who would be appropriate for individual music therapy would demonstrate differences in behavior, memory, speech and communication or motor movements when music is used. Consider the following characteristics to see if a music therapy evaluation may be appropriate for a child.

- ✓ Child is particularly motivated to participate in music activities
- ✓ You notice an increase in eye contact and attention when singing with a child
- ✓ A child will turn to look when sung to, but not necessarily when spoken to
- ✓ Child sings parts of or entire songs using pitch and melody but is not using the correct words
- ✓ Child disengages with loud or unexpected sounds
- ✓ Child will imitate movements or gestures in a song, but is not imitating in general
- ✓ Child is not babbling or making many sounds, but is attentive to singing
- ✓ Child demonstrates levels of engagement during music activities that are not typically seen at other times during the day.
- ✓ Child has limited spoken language abilities and initiates communication by singing familiar songs
- ✓ Child will readily attempt and/or perform actions in songs or with musical instruments despite significant challenges when faced with basic motor tasks.
- ✓ Child displays an extremely strong reaction, positive or negative, to sound. Children who have trouble processing and integrating recorded music, sung music or other sounds would also be an appropriate referral for music therapy to help address aural sensitivities that may disrupt learning.