



Music Therapy Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs

Children and youth can benefit from music therapy experiences in schools, at home and in community settings. Leaders in education recognize the value of music therapy as part of public or private school-based programs for school age children with special needs. Through in home services, families see the ability of music therapy services to meet individualized needs and support the generalization of skills. In the community, music therapy groups provide a meaningful intervention to support inclusion and community participation. Our Board Certified Music Therapists use music in creative ways to build bridges and overcome challenges with communication, behavior, or socialization.

Who Can Benefit

A wide range of individuals between the ages of 3 and 22 in the special education system can benefit from music therapy services. For students with learning disabilities who need support for recall or comprehension, music can provide a tool to better retain and process academic information. For students with limited means for communication, music therapy can provide a different means to bypass obstacles present with verbal language. For students with emotional and behavioral needs, music therapy provides an outlet for self-expression and opportunities to develop self-regulation and executive functioning skills. For transition age youth, music therapy can address personal goal setting, social skill development, self-advocacy tools and pre-vocational skills.

Students who are unable to access the general curriculum may benefit from music therapy as a tool to make academic progress on their IEP goals, and like speech or language therapy, can be included as a related service within an IEP. For other students, a group music therapy model in the school can provide social, emotional and educational support in a wide variety of ways. Music can serve as a bridge, supporting children to succeed in school.

Goals

Our services are goal driven and our therapists work with family members and/or team members to determine meaningful goals and objectives. Goals are designed to be supportive and therapeutic, and involve live and recorded music making.

Goals can include:

- Work towards educational objectives outlined by IEP team
- Facilitate development in communication and sensorimotor skills
- Increase motivation and attention
- Develop positive, pro social behaviors
- Increase independent engagement and participation

Program Offerings

- Individual or group music therapy services within a school setting
- Individual music therapy in the home or our music therapy center
- Afterschool music therapy groups through community programs or at our music therapy center
- Music Therapy Services on the IEP as a Related Services, including SEMTAP assessments

For more info on how our services can benefit your family member or program, please call our office!