

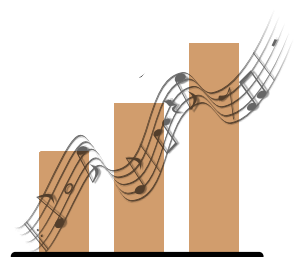
MUSIC THERAPY & SPECIAL EDUCATION

Music interventions provide unique ways to learn and practice new skills allowing students to reach educational, behavioral, and psychological goals where traditional approaches may fall short.

WHY MUSIC THERAPY WORKS

Over 60 years of research has established connections between music and memory, singing and speech, and rhythm and motor skills. Research conclusively demonstrates that facilitated music interventions improve mood, attention, and behavior to optimize students' ability to learn and interact.

In practice, music therapy addresses IEP-related goals in math, reading, writing, social, and behavioral domains. It also works with students to process trauma, increase emotional awareness, emotional regulation, communication skills, and community building.

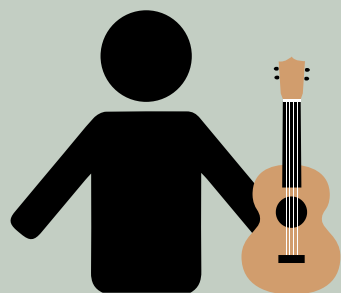


MUSIC THERAPY EXAMPLE

A student has an identified IEP goal to count backwards 5 numbers. The music therapist writes a number on each piano key, just like the number line. Then, asks the student to practice counting backwards while playing a simple melody.

Music is uniquely effective in this scenario because a high-to-low piano melody provides an audio cue perfectly mirroring the number line. The movement of the fingers on the keys provides an added memory tag, and the completion of every step-wise melody releases dopamine, so it's intrinsically rewarding -the perfect conditions for learning!

WHY A MUSIC THERAPIST

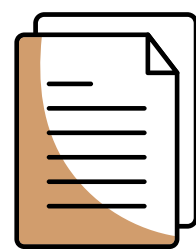


Music therapists have collegiate-level training on piano, voice, guitar, and percussion and must pass a national exam after completing a Bachelor's degree and supervised internship.

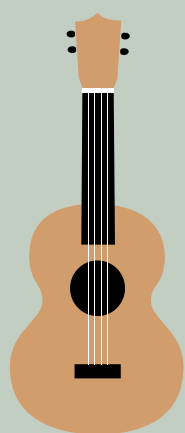
Qualified music therapists have been providing music therapy as a related service to literally thousands of students in nearly every state over the course of the 46 years since the passage of Public Law 94-142.

GETTING STARTED

After a referral from a member of a student's IEP team, the music therapist uses a comprehensive assessment that includes a review of the student's current IEP, interviews with key IEP team members, and observation of the student in- and outside a music therapy session.



The subsequent data determine whether music therapy is necessary for the student to achieve educational or IEP goals.



MUSIC THERAPY IN PRACTICE

To work toward identified goal areas, students participate in instrument playing, music and movement, song writing, and other custom-designed music interventions.

Music therapy sessions can be facilitated in group and individual settings, or concurrently alongside typical classroom instruction. Music therapists also consult with parents, teachers, and other members of the IEP team.

FIND A MUSIC THERAPIST

VISIT [MUSICTHERAPY.ORG](https://www.musictherapy.org)

