



American Music Therapy Association, Inc.

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MUSIC THERAPY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Music Therapy is considered a related service under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- When music therapy is deemed necessary to assist a child benefit from his/her special education, goals are documented on the Individualized Education Program (IEP) as a related service intervention.
- Music therapy can be an integral component in helping the child with special needs attain educational goals identified by his/her IEP team.
- Music therapy interventions can address development in cognitive, behavioral, physical, emotional, and social skills. Music therapy can also facilitate development in communication and sensorimotor skills.
- Music therapy can offer direct or consultant services as determined by the individual needs of the child.
- Music therapists can support special education classroom teachers by providing effective ways to incorporate music into their academic curriculum.
- Music therapy involvement can stimulate attention and increase motivation to participate more fully in other aspects of the educational setting.
- Music therapy interventions apply the inherent order of music to set behavioral expectations, provide reassurance, and maintain structure for children with special needs.
- Music therapy can adapt strategies to encourage a child's participation in the least restrictive environment.