

The Link Between Music and Autism

There is a national trend of an increase in the number of individuals diagnosed with autism. The use of music is particularly beneficial for autistic individuals allowing in part to the nonverbal, nonthreatening nature of the medium. Research has documented that children with autism evidence unusual sensitivities to music and demonstrate a highly accurate memory for song lyrics, increased initiation of singing compared with speaking, and significant increases in attention, motivation and emotional engagement during musical activities. Music has allowed individuals with autism to make enormous strides in their personal lives by developing more meaningful communication behaviors.

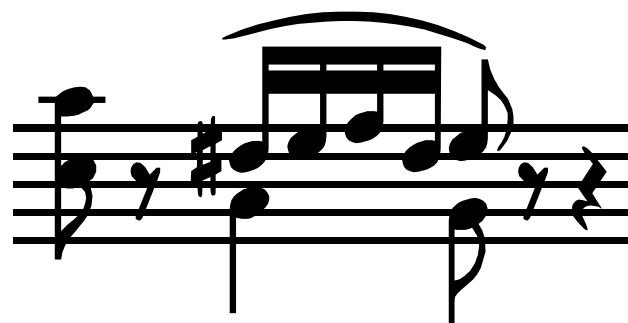
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MULTI-SENSORY MUSIC ROOM at Prospect School



What is the Multi-Sensory Music Room?

The multi-sensory Music Room is an area that houses a very special audio system that transforms sound into amplified, vibro tactile stimuli, as well as visual displays.

How does the Music Room work?

This audio system amplifies and transforms sounds into vibrations that can be *felt* through vibrating floor panels and *seen* through a variety of colorful visual displays. The Music Room electronically processes signals from musical instruments, recordings and other sources (such as the human voice) so that the individual can experience all the characteristics of sound, pitch, volume, timbre and rhythm through feel, touch, sight and hearing.

Who benefits from the Music Room?

The multi-sensory music room is designed to enhance experiences and skill development for students who have sensory disorders, multiple disabilities and/or pervasive developmental disorders/autism. The Music Room will be available as an enrichment activity for students at Prospect School.

What are the benefits?

The benefits from a program of this type can be seen at a wide variety of levels:

- Allows for better breath support for vocalization.
- Teaches cause and effect by producing an action to obtain a desired outcome.
- Increases attention to task.
- Improves tracking and motor skills.
- Enhances speech and language skills.
- Presents opportunities to follow directions, take turns, and listen to others.

Our Team of Professionals

Our team of experienced teachers, speech and language pathologists, and school psychologists consult with our students and their families to develop and coordinate a treatment plan and goals.

