

Music For Communication – A Musical Conversation

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A growing body of evidence reveals that music therapy to be effective in developing communication, interpersonal, personal responsibility and play skills (Kern & Humpal, 2013).

Research also informs us that musical activities can naturally develop the areas of attachment, listening, language and cognition (Pate, 2003; Kraus et al, 2011; Welch, 2006).

Why is music capable of achieving this?

This talk considers the structure and sensory input inherent in music which helps to establish response, interactions, musical conversations and communication.

Practical musical examples from individual and group sessions will be demonstrated and suggestions provided to how these can be utilised within a therapy or educational context to encourage families to inculcate music into everyday life for children with deafness and autism.

Learning Objectives:

- Summarize research about the impact of music therapy for children with deafness and autism.
- Explain how daily, family-focused music activities can be used to support the development of communication for infants and children with deafness and autism.
- Describe musical resources readily available to professionals and families
- Demonstration, participation and recorded examples will be used to actively involve participants in a variety of family-focused musical activities, designed to strengthen communication for pre-schoolers and older children.

Deafness and Autism:

Can children benefit from hearing technology?