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Youth in Arts: Evidence of Effectiveness Their Music Program Has On Communication and Social Aspects of Students With Special Needs

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The Benefits of Music Education for Students with Special Needs



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Purpose



While much research exists on the general benefits of music with students, little is known about the impact of music on students with special needs.

Research Question



What impact does music have
on students with special needs?

Benefits of Music



Communication

Behavior

Academics

Socialization

Prior Research



Research:

Use of morning greeting songs
for students with autism
(Kern et al., 2006)

Prior Research



Implications:

Transitions were smoother
Peer interaction increased

Prior Research



Research:

Music therapy versus play therapy with students who have autism to increase joint attention
(Kim et al., 2008)

Prior Research



Implications:
Eye contact increased
Turn taking increased

Implications for Practice



Morning Greeting Song

Background Music

Group Music Class

Integration with Technology

Implications for Research



Research on effects of music with typically developing children indicates benefits in areas of: communication, behavior, academics and socialization.

Implications for Research



Many studies conducted on the effect of music on students with autism--what about other disabilities?

Implications for Research



Need for studies that involve more subjects.

References

Kern, P., Wolery, M., & Aldridge, D. (2007). Use of songs to promote independence in morning greeting routines for young children with autism. *Journal of Autism & Developmental Disorders*, 37(7), 1264-1271. doi:10.1007/s10803-006-0272-1

Kim, J., Wigram, T., & Gold, C. (2008). The effects of improvisational music therapy on joint attention behaviors in autistic children: A randomized controlled study. *Journal of Autism & Developmental Disorders*, 38(9), 1758-1766. doi:10.1007/s10803-008-0566-6

