



Music, it's not just for Dancing



 Positive
Steps

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It's Music in Our Schools Month and this art has long been promoted as a way to improve overall learning outcomes, but did you know that it can also enhance your child's speech and language development? It is a wonderful tool to incorporate into the treatment process and so much fun! Speak with your individual therapist for specific ways that music may enhance your child's program, but here are some benefits:

Music for Social Skills:

Singing or making music within the group setting is great for social skill development. This is often a creative way to get a child to participate with others. It can provide a mix of both structured and unstructured activity. Songs in groups are good for teaching basic social skills. Think about circle time within a preschool setting, often the songs chosen during these times include songs of greeting and farewell. Songs sung within a group often require imitation skills and looking to a teacher and/or classmate for appropriate motions or movements as well as behaviors. Singing songs within the group setting promotes having to listen to others and take turns or parts. Lastly, working together to make music is great for teaching group play skills.

Music for Listening Comprehension:

Singing or making music is absolutely wonderful for building listening skills! Often times in song, children will have to listen to key words and follow with an accompanying movement. Many early learning songs or nursery rhymes contain a variety of basic concepts that children can be introduced to in order to improve overall understanding of spoken language.

Music for Expressive Language:

Singing of songs can be so beneficial for building expressive language skills. Much like the introduction of basic concepts, early learning songs or nursery rhymes contain opportunities for a fun and interactive way to introduce and reinforce basic vocabulary.

Music for Speech, Voice, and Fluency:

For children that struggle with correct production of sounds, music can be a great tool and reinforcement for drill or practice. Use of rhythm and rate can be used to assist with productions of extra challenging words or to assist with attaining and maintaining fluent speech. Varying pitch and volume can assist with promoting good posture, breathing technique, and healthy use of one's voice.



“Try singing any nursery song with your child and leave the final word off of each verse for him to fill in on his own. This is a fun and interactive way to build expressive language and vocabulary!”