What is Special Education?

- Special Education programs are designed for those students who are mentally, physically, socially and/or emotionally delayed.

- Students’ needs cannot be met in a traditional classroom environment and require additional supports.

- Instruction addresses individual differences and needs.
What is Music Therapy?

“Music therapy is a well-established professional health discipline that uses music as the therapeutic stimulus to achieve non-musical treatment goals. In special education settings, music therapists utilize music as an educational related service to promote learning and skill acquisition”

- American Music Therapy Association
BENEFITS OF MUSIC THERAPY

- Distraction from pain, discomfort and anxiety of disabilities
- Enhance mood, attention and behavior to optimize student ability to learn and interact
- Facilitate self-expression
- Transform frustration, anger and aggression into creativity and self-mastery
- High success rate in language development, social skills, cognitive concepts, motor skills and music knowledge
- Effective prompt/reinforcer to increase verbal response in children with limited verbal communication
“The focus of music therapy is on non-musical goals. We work on communication, social skills, fine and gross motor skills, activities of daily living, behavior management, etc. I see the benefits everyday through little changes. A student who never was able to sit through an entire session without having a behavior will now sit and participate throughout. A student who held their ears and would not speak now sings along with me. A student who had no meaningful communication will now gesture and sign to familiar activities.”

– Danielle Long,
Music Therapist at Maryland School for the Blind
TECHNOLOGY AND MUSIC THERAPY

- Adapted Instruments
- Recording Technology
- Electronic Musical Instruments
- Assistive Technology
- Computer Applications
- Apps for iPads/computers
ADAPTED MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

- Altering handles on mallets, modified guitar picks, Velcro fasteners
- Mounting systems that hold instruments for easier play (Remo Paddle Drum Wheelchair Clip and Basic Beat Adaptive Instrument Rack)
- Neck holders – allow clients to blow a wind instrument
- Bellows blowers to activate wind instruments through physical exertion
< Paddle Drum Wheelchair Clip

< Altered mallets

< Velcro Egg Shaker
“I use an iPod and speaker to play recorded music occasionally. In general, live music is always better, but sometimes I need to use recorded music in order to help the students play their instruments. I use recorded music occasionally with my direct service (one-on-one) students as a reward at the end of their session”

– Danielle Long
“A lot of my students use communication devices and adaptive switches to communicate. I use whatever the students use in their classrooms to help them generalize (they bring their communication devices with them). The students will communicate yes/no/more/finished/hello/goodbye and also their name/month/day of the week/weather, etc. using these devices”

– Danielle Long
AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION DEVICES
MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) - a technical standard that describes a protocol, digital interface and connectors and allows a wide variety of electronic musical instruments, computers and other related devices to connect and communicate with one another
Q-Chord

http://youtu.be/ivLP3F0cbr0

ELECTRONIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

- Adaptive Use Musical Instruments (AUMI)
- SoundBeam
- Jamboxx
http://youtu.be/UN193PfgzdU
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07AqgVDwQII
APPS FOR IPAD & COMPUTER

- Beat Box Pad
- Melody Bell
- Garageband
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvMdeVzRwJU
MELODY BELL

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AiTM8OZxY4E
Options for recording, songwriting, developmental musical skills and familiarity with a variety of musical instruments
“I work with two teams for my music therapy sessions: Multiply Disabilities Blind program and the Blind Autism program. For the Blind Autism program, I use a reality orientation intervention (a name song, days of the week song), I include a sensory activity (this changes monthly) and I have a different goal area I focus on each month.”

“For the multiply disabled blind program, I keep almost everything the same. These students need a lot more repetition, so I don’t vary the session too frequently”

– Danielle Long
Generally, all forms of technology utilized in a music therapy session increase the ability of the client to perform and produce music

- On non-verbal individuals -
- On individuals with physical disabilities –
- On individuals with emotional behavioral disorders –
- On individuals with autism -