



MACARTHUR CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENTAL CLINIC

SPEECH PATHOLOGY & MUSIC

Speech Pathology & Music Collaboration

Speech Pathologists collaborate with a variety of people and professionals, including:

- Occupational Therapists
- Psychologists
- Social Workers
- Music Therapists
- Other healthcare professionals

❖ Music Therapists often collaborate with Speech Pathologists to work with children on their goals. This combined approach is not new in the profession. This has been supported by a survey of 695 music therapists, of which 44.6% said they collaborate with Speech Pathologists.

Why language/speech/communication and music?

Similarities between Speech & Language and Music

- Music and Language are universal and specific to humans
- Both have pitch, timbre, rhythm, and durational features
- Spontaneous speech and spontaneous singing typically develop within infants at approximately the same time.
- Music and language have auditory, vocal, and visual uses (both use written systems) and are built on structure and rules.
- Distinct forms of music and language exist and vary across cultures

What communication goals can be achieved through music activities?

- Speak more clearly
- Improve speech sounds
- Improve vocabulary
- Lengthen sentences
- Improve reading skills
- Improve pitch and volume of voice when talking
- Understand better about what others are saying
- Learn to follow directions
- Use Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) along with speech as a clarification strategy

***Music can help discover people's developmental potential
and it may change some aspects of our lives!***