

# Music Therapy for Special Education



With Dynamic Lynks

# Who Are We?



[Dynamic Lynks](#) was established in 2016



Team of Board-Certified Music Therapists



We serve over 90 classrooms throughout the Greater Chicago Area



Supports-focused, client-centered team with diverse clinical experiences





# What is Music Therapy?

- An established health profession
- Music is used within a therapeutic relationship to address goal areas such as:
  - Physical – gross and fine motor
  - Emotional – expression and understanding
  - Cognitive – attention and executive functions
  - Social – connection and interactions
  - Communication – expressive and receptive
- Treatment includes creating, singing, moving to, and/or listening to music
- Through musical involvement in the therapeutic context, clients' abilities are strengthened and transferred to other areas of their lives
- Music therapy also provides avenues for communication that can be helpful to those who find it difficult to express themselves through words



# Who Do We Support?

At Dynamic Lynks, we specialize in:

- Neurodivergent children and adults
  - [Autism – Evidence-Based Practice - NCAEP, 2020](#)
- [Mental and Behavioral Health](#)
- Multi-Needs
- Communication Disorders
- Developmental Disabilities
- [Special Education](#)

Music Therapy in Special Education can be used for all ages and areas of need:

- Blind/Visual Impairment (BVI), Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH), Specific Learning Disability (SLD), Emotional Disturbance (ED), Speech or Language Impairment (SLI), Orthopedic Impairment (OI), Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Multiple Disabilities (MD), Behavioral Disorder (BD), Other Health Impairment (OHI)



# Music Therapy in Special Education

- Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) music therapy is recognized as a related service in special education and settings serving students with disabilities
- Music therapists utilize music as an educational related service to promote learning and skill acquisition in domain areas related to the scope of special education curriculum and programming
- Engagement in music therapy stimulates attention and increases motivation to participate more fully in other aspects of the educational setting
- Music therapists create strategies and pre-teach skills to encourage and support a student's effective and independent engagement both individually and in groups to build students' capacity to participate successfully in the least restrictive environment

# Benefits and Outcomes of Music Therapy



Increased joint attention

Increased coping skills and regulation strategies

Increased socialization with peers and educational teams

Functional and effective self-expression skills

Enhanced auditory processing

Increased self-regulation and decreased agitation

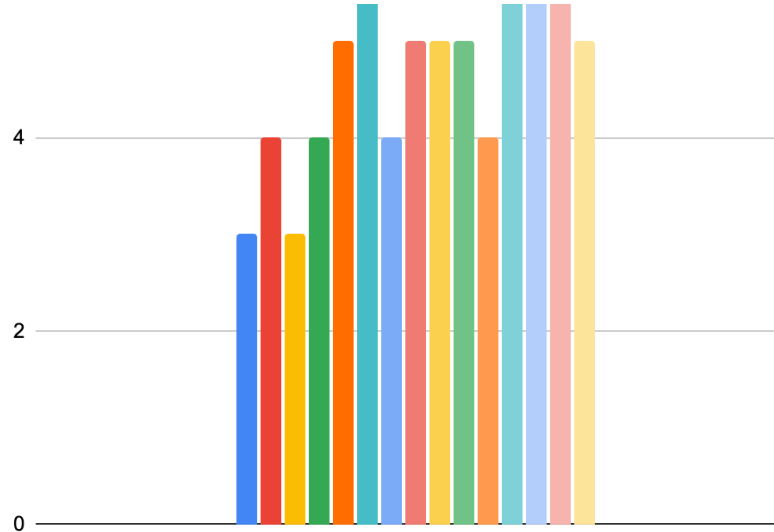
Improved receptive and expressive language

Enhanced sensory-motor, perceptual/motor, and fine/gross motor skills

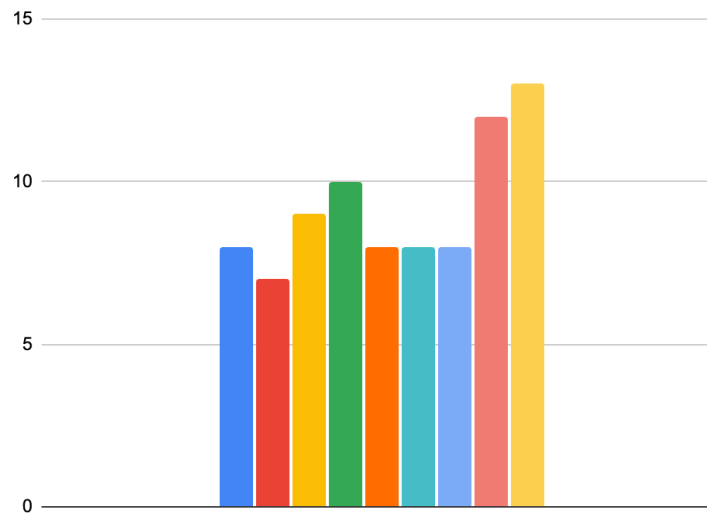
Support of progress and/or attainment of IEP goals and objectives

Acquisition and practice of new skills required in the educational setting

- 9/22/21
- 10/6/21
- 11/3/21
- 11/10/21
- 12/8/22
- 1/6/22
- 1/19/22
- 2/9/22
- 2/23/22
- 3/2/22
- 3/9/22
- 3/23/22
- 4/6/22



# of students in group who indicated choice (verbally or AAC)



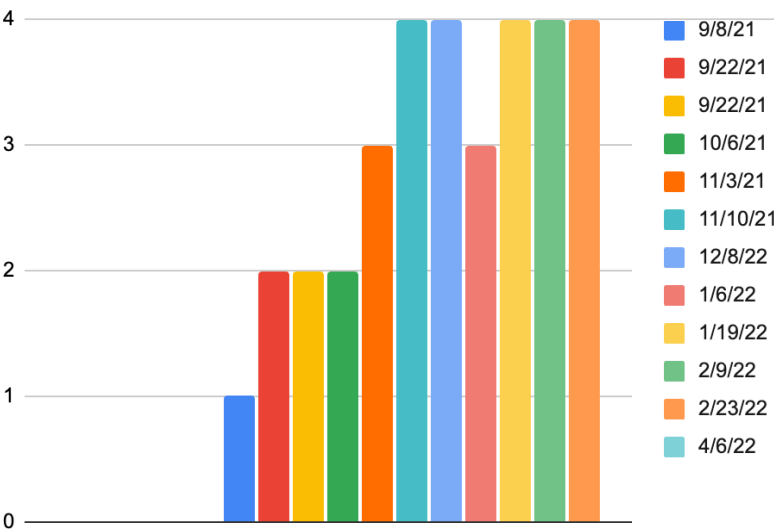
# of students who imitated a gross motor movement

- 9/1/21
- 9/8/21
- 9/22/21
- 10/20/21
- 11/3/21
- 12/15/21
- 1/12/22
- 4/6/22
- 4/13/22

# Examples from Our Schools

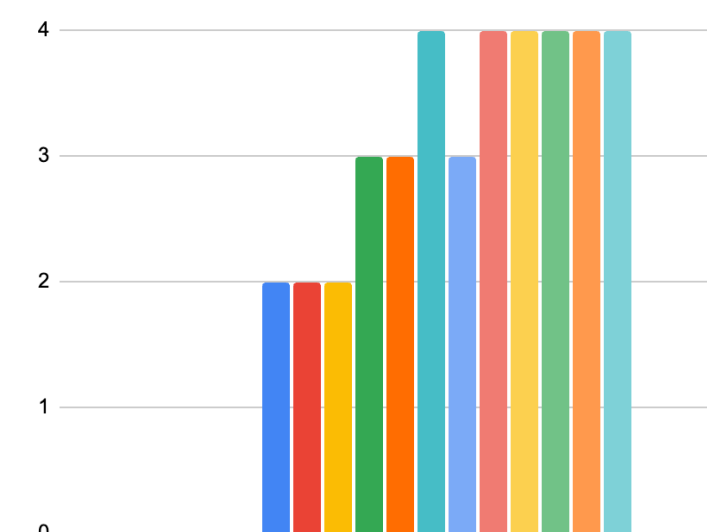
- Consistent increase in skill acquisition across benchmarks
- Diverse goal areas
- Extended engagement for the duration of the Music Therapy session
- Group collaboration and teamwork in an organic and exciting way!

- 9/1/21
- 9/8/21
- 9/22/21
- 10/6/21
- 11/3/21
- 11/10/21
- 12/8/21
- 1/6
- 1/19/22
- 2/9/22
- 3/23/22



# of students present who engaged in reciprocal communication

- 9/8/21
- 9/22/21
- 10/6/21
- 11/3/21
- 11/10/21
- 12/8/22
- 1/6/22
- 1/19/22
- 2/9/22
- 2/23/22
- 4/6/22



# of students present who identified their Zone of Regulation



# Funding Music Therapy

## Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

- Music Therapy is a related service
- Special Education Music Therapy Assessment Process (SEMTAP)

## Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

- Music Therapy Social Skills Assessment (MTSSA)

## Grants and Private Donors





**Lynk Up With Us**  
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