START RECORDING!
July 2018
Music Therapy
+ Children with Visual Impairment
Visual Impairment is a Spectrum

- Normal
- Near/Far Sightedness
- Low Vision/Legally blind
- Blind
Totally Blind vs. Partial Vision

World Health Organization says 36 of 253 million are BLIND (14%)

The rest have low vision/legally blind.

80% of these people or age 50+
Visual Impairment is the functional loss of vision rather than the eye disorder itself

Common Mechanical Eye Disorders:
- myopia/hyperopia
- Glaucoma
- Cataracts
- Retinal degeneration
- Strabismus

Common Brain Eye Disorders:
- Cortical vision impairment
- Optic nerve hypoplasia
Visual Impairment in the Special Education Setting

Students with a visual impairment including blindness that, even with correction, adversely affects the student's educational performance and requires specially designed instruction.
Cortical Vision Impairment

- Diminished visual acuity caused by damage to the occipital lobe or visual pathway.
- Vision functioning can change day to day/hour to hour.
- Variable/Inconsistent response to the same visual stimuli.
- Visual responsiveness may increase with movement (riding in a car).
- Color vision does not seem to be affected.
- Easily fatigued by visual tasks.
Dual Diagnoses

- Speech Impairment
- Intellectual Disability
- Autism
- Other Health Impaired
- Specific Learning Disability
- Deaf-Blind
Music Therapy Research

- Kern & Woolery 2001
- Flowers & Wang 2002
- Robb 2003
Kern & Woolery 2001

- Participation of a Preschooler with visual impairments on the playground: effects of musical adaptations and staff development
- Added musical stations in strategic playground locations
- Measured pre/post social interaction, engagement with materials, movement, and stereotypic behaviors
- Increased engagement and decreased stereotypic responses.
Matching Verbal Description to Music Excerpt: The Use of Language by Blind and Sighted Children

Children listened to music excerpts and described orally.
Music teachers tried to match the descriptions to each excerpt.
Blind children used more musical elements to describe, and sighted children used more metaphors and emotional descriptors.
Robb 2003

- Music Interventions and Group Participations Skills of Preschoolers with Visual Impairments: Raising Questions about Music, Arousal, and Attention
- Measured 4 areas: facing a central speaker, following one step directions, manipulating objects according to function, and remaining seated
- Participated in 2 music-based and 2 play-based sessions.
- Attentive behavior significantly higher during music.
For all our clients we ask.....

- How can music therapy best support the student's areas of need?
- Cognitive/Academic
- Social
- Language/Communication
- Physical (navigating environment)
- Functional

It's no different with children who have visual impairment.
What goals and objectives or areas of need are identified in the child’s IEP, other outside services, or by the child’s family?
Considerations

● Active engagement - "learn by doing"
● Create ways the child can understand the big picture
● Demonstrate skills that are usually learned visually
● Real objects
● Facility development of sensory skills - touch, hearing, vision, taste, smell
● Clear explanations & Repetition
Tips

- Have a symbol or item that identifies "you."
- Use language that describes "The guitar on your right"
- Just because the head is down doesn't mean the student is not listening
- Keep pictures and objects simple
- Solid Backgrounds and high color contrast (ex: yellow on black)
- Rely on your VI teacher
Music Therapy Interventions

This looks the same as other music therapy sessions. You’ll probably have a few more manipulatives, tactile visuals or other equipment.

- AAC device
- Song objects
- Tactile Schedule Cards
- Tactile Money boards
- Counters
- Singable book “sensory bags”
Song Objects

Goodie Bag!
Money Boards

- one cent = 1¢
- five cents = 5¢
- ten cents = 10¢
- twenty five cents = 25¢
Music Therapy + Braille Literacy

We use music to teach literacy to sighted children, why not apply to non-sighted children?
Songs to Learn the Dot Count

Wait…what’s a dot count?
Team Drive Song List

- A-1
- IJKLMNOP
- QRSTUV
- WXYZ
- When I’m reading (introductory contractions)
- Dollar Identification (will be there soon)
- Easy Words
How Do I Tell My Dollars Apart

How, how, how do I tell, tell, tell my dollars apart?
It’s the shape, shape, shape and I don’t mean, I don’t mean a heart.
The way it’s folded is they way I succeed.
The way it’s folded is how I know which bill I need.

5 dollars is folded on the looonnnng side. (repeat)
Give me a bill that’s folded long and I’ll know.
You’re gonna hear me holler, this bill is 5 dollars.

10 dollars/short side
20 dollars/folded twice
1 dollar/flat, has no fold
VIDEO TIME!
Other Things I’ve Done

- Books with Braille
- Tactiles
- Word Playhouse
- Braille letter stickers
- Textured file folders
David’s Song
d/4  o  e/5  o  h/8  n  capital sign  j/Ø
Word Playhouse
Physical Resources

- Can be any toy, tool, kitchen accessory, you name it!
- Dollar bins at Superstores, Dollar Tree, etc.
- Craft Stores - Hobby Lobby, JoAnn, etc.
- Catalogs like Oriental Trading
Web Resources

- Pinterest - search "visual impairment" and the idea boards will appear!
- www.seedlings.org
- American Foundation for the Blind (www.afb.org)
- American Printing House for the Blind (www.aph.org)
- www.braillethis.com
- www.dancingdots.com
- MTed Course by Natasha Thomas to go deep!
iPad Apps

- Bitsboard (sound decks or make your own) - free/paid
- Cause & Effect Sensory Light/Sound Box - 3.99
- Sounds of the Orchestra - 2.99
- Tap-n-See - free/paid
Q & A

How to get your credit:

https://goo.gl/forms/3Kcl0LEVMeHWpiRI2