

Music in the Moderate/Severe Classroom

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Lesson Planning Considerations

- Have one or two goals for each student for the year. Discuss with the teacher and maybe your goals can help support theirs.
- Repetition is the key to student success. I use the same playlist/lesson plan for several weeks before making small changes.
- Use visual aides along with the music. For visually impaired students, add things with texture or outline in glue to create dimension for the student to feel.
- Choose songs that offer opportunities for movement or create movements to go along with the song to help with sequencing.
- For older students, finding music that is more current but still school appropriate.
- Give only two choices when you want students to select an instrument or sound.
- Allow students to switch instruments or even give them the option for none.
- Give students time with instruments that will allow for the development of fine motor and gross motor skills.
- Allow students to choose a song, offer a microphone to sing along, or an opportunity to be the leader for the music.
- Give students the opportunity to verbalize the music, even if they are at the beginning of their language skills, focus on the first letter or sound in the words. Build on their language each time you see them.

Student Engagement

- Offer a variety of items for sensory. (Movement, touch, visual)
- Opening and closing song are the same each week so they have a musical cue for when class begins and ends.
- Greet each student during the hello song with eye contact, hand shake/high five/light touch and verbally say their name.
- Have any paraprofessionals or teachers in the class assist the students with any musical activity or have them sit just off to the side so the student may work on their own.

Resources

- “Just Like a...” by Sally K. Albrecht, Kids on the Move (using touchable pictures)
- Keynote – use the app to create visuals to go along with a song.
- Incredibox app – allows students to choose sounds to create their own mix
- ChoiceBoard Creator (Lite & full versions) app – allows you to create unlimited options for students to choose instruments, compose music, etc.
- Doodle Sounds app – allows students to play a one-octave keyboard and change instrument sounds
- Music Sparkle app – allows students to play instruments with a simply background track
- Adaptive Use Musical Instrument (AUMI) – allows students with limited mobility to improvise using small movements of any body part
- Article: “Special Considerations” by Scott K. Iseminger, Teaching Music, November 2013, Volume 21, Number 3, pgs. 28-32