music therapy

What are the differences between private music therapy and music therapy through the Individualized Education Program (IEP)?

Eligibility

• **IEP:** Music therapy can only be added to a student's IEP if a music therapy assessment has determined it is required in order for the student to benefit from their educational program. Service must be discontinued once the student no longer requires it to progress.

• **PRIVATE:** Any child or teen can attend private music therapy sessions, although the private music therapist will want to discuss the child's potential benefit with the family before commencing treatment. Services may continue until it is agreed they are no longer needed.

Goal Areas

• **IEP:** The music therapist must legally assist with and document on the specific IEP goals that the team agreed required additional support. These goals are non-musical in nature.

• **PRIVATE:** Music therapy in the private setting can support a wide array of needs including non-IEP goals identified by the music therapist or parent, and musical goals such as learning an instrument.

Approach

• **IEP:** Therapy is provided at the student’s school site and will typically include peer integration, collaboration and consultation with other IEP team members and assistance with generalization. Legally, the music therapist must use interventions based on research, such as techniques from the fields of Neurologic Music Therapy or Applied Behavior Analysis.

• **PRIVATE:** Private music therapy is often provided in a one-to-one setting at a therapy clinic or the child's home. If appropriate, sessions can involve family members, peers, or other professionals.

Have a question?

Receive an answer from one of our board certified music therapists at www.facebook.com/coastmusic or visit our website for more information on music therapy eligibility, services, and research.

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