

resources

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Inclusion Info At Your Fingertips

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Around the world, long-standing legislation and policies and a large body of research support the concept of including young children with disabilities in natural environments, regular preschools, and communities. Hence, music therapists should implement successful inclusion practices while being aware of latest global initiatives and developments. The following selection of prominent online resources (i.e., websites, videos, blog posts, podcast episodes, and twitter accounts) offer free professional development materials, inspiration, information, and clinical practice tips related to inclusion around the globe.

Websites

National Professional

Development Center for Inclusion

Hosted by the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at UNC at Chapel Hill, this center offers landing pads with evidence-based practices to support inclusion. The resources are listed under practices that support access, participation, and system-level supports.

CONNECT Project: Foundations of Inclusion Training Curriculum FPG Child Development Institute at UNC at Chapel Hill

This four-hour online curriculum serves as an instructional resource for faculty and other professional development providers to support evidence-based inclusion practices. It offers video instructions and slides as well as various handouts and activities for free download.

SpecialQuest

Developed by the Hilton/Early Head Start Training Program, SpecialQuest maintains a multi-media training library on inclusion and professional development resources open to everyone.

Videos

Take a Stand

As part of the Special Olympics World Games 2015, this video [1:17 minutes] advocates for acceptance and inclusion of all people and invites the community to stand up for someone who is perceived as different.

MattyBRaps.com

Produced by children, this music video [3:19 minutes] tells the story of a little girl with Down Syndrome who was neglected by peers and then included by one girl; this turned things around for everyone.

Including Issac

This video documentation [12:40 minutes] demonstrates full inclusion of a boy with spinal muscular atrophy in a school setting. His parents, teachers, and peers show their compassion for Issac, solutions for his daily challenges, and the impact of his presence on everyone involved.

Disabling Segregation

This TEDx talk [17:53 minutes] presents the perspective of a father

whose son Samuel was born with cerebral palsy. Belonging to the neighborhood, community, and local school was the family's major goal for Samuel. Through building awareness, friendships, and the civil courage of his supporters, this goal was achieved.

Inclusion Explained in 80 Seconds

Published by "Aktion Mensch," a German non-profit organization, this video [1:20 minutes] demonstrates what inclusion looks like in various community settings. While the narration is in German, the animated visual drawings speak for themselves.

Blog Posts

Early Childhood Development Champions Converge on UNICEF

This blog post describes a meeting hosted by UNICEF that brought together leading experts in early childhood, politicians, company executives, and honorable guests. All are committed to early childhood development, including global inclusion practices. Speakers stressed that a) rigorous science should inform policy-making required to sustain development, and b) funding should be made available to mobilize the initiative. Representatives advocated for promoting a "holistic well-being of all young children around the world" for global development.

Special Olympics Highlights Need for Inclusive Development

A blog post by Special Olympics International highlights a roundtable of corporate executives, disability advocates (including athletes with intellectual disabilities), politicians,

and development leaders who discussed "inclusive global development." While recognizing that more than 200 million individuals with intellectual disabilities have no access to appropriate healthcare, education, and basic social inclusion, roundtable participants committed to forming new partnerships, finding pragmatic solutions, renewing policies, and implementing new programs to bring about greater inclusion for all.

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Service Blog

This U.S. governmental blog provides information about the proposed policy statement on inclusion of young children with disabilities in high-quality early childhood programs. The policy statement addresses a definition of inclusion in early childhood programs, the scientific foundation, the legal structure, challenges to inclusion, building a culture of inclusion, and state recommendations.

Podcast Episodes

Inclusion Matters

Produced by experts of the Center for Inclusive Child Care (CICC), this podcast series addresses specific topics related to inclusion such as the *Fundamentals of Consultation*, or the *Emotional Environment*.

The Think Inclusive Podcasts

Hosted by Tim Villegas of Brookes Publishing Company, this podcast interview series features experts, educators, parents, and people from the community discussing various inclusion topics.

The Inclusive Class

Special educators and inclusion experts Nicole Eredics and Terri Mauro feature guests such as Dr. Temple Grandin to get insights and different perspectives on inclusion.

Twitter Accounts

@InclusionPress

"Working towards inclusion for people of all abilities and backgrounds," this account regularly tweets about latest news, happenings, and quotes about inclusion.

@decsped

This handle tweets information provided by staff and volunteers of the Division for Early Childhood – the leading voice on young children with special needs in the U.S.

Author's Note

The first three resources listed have been provided by Dr. Pam Winton, the author of the 2015 featured article of *imagine*.

About the Author



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Pin It: Find Music Therapy and Inclusion Practices Online

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Access to the internet provides countless means of finding and sharing new information and ideas worldwide. Whether music therapists are looking for new ideas to revamp their toolbox, or if they have tried all that they have with a client and need new ideas, a few keywords and phrases can be entered into a website and open up a whole new world of possibilities. Keywords can range from broad terms, such as “inclusion,” “generalization,” “music,” or “cognition,” to more specific terms related to goal areas, such as “painting,” “matching colors,” “counting songs,” or “movement songs.” When keywords and phrases are relevant to goals of a specific client or group, music therapists can find many ways to not only provide more effective services, but also to learn and grow as professionals. The following selected resources offer several online tools and information relevant to early childhood music therapy and inclusion.

MusicTherapyActivities.wikia

This website is created by a music therapist for music therapists. While sharing activities and information specific to population, goal/objective, or use of music, website visitors can also upload their activities and ideas.

Internet Search Engines

Google or Bing are internet search engines that allow users to search for information worldwide. Keywords, phrases, or questions can be entered into the search bar to retrieve relevant information from other websites and sources. When using Google or Bing the searcher is able to input information into the search bar and then specify one of the tabs (e.g., the Web, Images, Maps, Videos, News, Shopping, Books, and More) to more accurately locate the desired results.

For example, a Google search using the phrase “early childhood music therapy inclusion” provides many results, including the following:

- ✿ A PDF document entitled *Musical Activities for Early Childhood Inclusion* from (coastmusictherapy.com)
- ✿ A PDF document of *Inclusion Guidelines for Music from the National Core Arts Standards* (nationalartsstandards.org)
- ✿ An AMTA Pro Podcast from September 2010 entitled *Music Therapy in Inclusive Classrooms* (amtapro.musictherapy.org)
- ✿ A recorded webinar by music therapist Carol Ann Blank titled *Embedding Music in the Early Childhood Inclusion Classroom* (edweb.net).

Pinterest

Pinterest is a collection of visual bookmarks, called “pins,” that are created, shared, and stored through an online bulletin board. This sharing tool is a massive resource for pictures, activities, books, resources, websites, and ideas. The user can search for keywords or phrases in the search tab and view pictures, or pins. Each pin will take the user to the website where the pin originated, providing the relevant or desired information about the pin. If the user finds that website useful, they can re-pin the picture to their own virtual bulletin board. In this way the user or, “pinner,” will develop collections of relevant information or activities that can be referenced at a later date.

Pinner of interest to early childhood music therapists include:

- ✿ The Rhythm Tree (@therhythmtree)
- ✿ Kerry Cornelius (@songsforsuccess)
- ✿ Bear Paw Creek (@bearpawcreek)
- ✿ Kindermusik International (@kindermusik)

Inclusion resources on Pinterest include:

- ✿ EC Inclusion Board by Full Circle Teaching (@fullcircleteach)
- ✿ The Inclusive Class (@inclusiveclass)
- ✿ Music Ideas for Preschoolers Board by Play-Based Classroom (@playbasedclssrm)