

**Critical Review:
Effects of Music Therapy on the Social Skills of
Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**

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Abstract: This critical review seeks to determine the effects of music therapy on the social communication of children who are on the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Study designs include, Randomized Clinical Trials (RCT), Non-Randomized Clinical Trials, and Within-Subject Design Studies. The results from these studies suggest

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studies were children with a diagnosis of ASD. We also selected articles that measured changes in the participants' social communication as a result of the music therapy they received. Social communication,

Thompson, McFerran, and Gold (2014)

This study investigated the impacts of family-centered music therapy (FCMT) on the social engagement abilities of children with severe ASD. In a parallel-randomized control trial, twenty-three children were randomly split up into the group that received FCMT and early intervention programs (n=12), or the group that received only the early intervention program (n=11). For 16 weeks, those in the treatment group participated in one, 30-40 minu

children with autism spectrum disorder to simple versus complex music. *Journal of Music Therapy*, 49, 430–452.

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