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Music Programs in Urban Schools

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(2016, November 10). Retrieved November 15, 2018, from <http://old.ellenhorn.com/music-therapy-role-in-treatment/>

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Mikayla Battistone
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(2017, July 19). Retrieved November 15, 2018, from <http://archive.massapeal.com/hip-hop-roles/>

Abstract

It is important to implement and maintain a music program within an urban school containing a high population of at-risk students. With the awareness of mental illness increasing, we are more knowledgeable of the cognitive deficits caused by ongoing abuse and neglect--often called complex trauma. The effects music can have on the brain combats the negative cognitive and emotional impacts of complex trauma, which is essentially the goal of music therapy. Not every child has the opportunity and/or means to experience music therapy. However, if music programs are offered in school, kids can reap the positive benefits of music by participating in their school's music program. The role of the teacher as well as the type of music studied in school can have incredibly positive impacts on the student(s). In order to reach the full potential of the positive effects of music, the teacher needs to take time to get to know and invest in their students. Additionally, they need to be willing to be creative and flexible with the curriculum. This might mean turning to untraditional genres, including hip hop or rap. There is no formula for the perfect music program in an urban setting, but what is important is that one is implemented and shaped in a way that will best benefit the students and their well-being.

Nontraditional Music in the Classroom

- Incorporating nontraditional music in the classroom can help create a more effective music program.
- Music such as rap and hip hop often promotes themes of “beating the streets” and finding success in the midst of adversity.
- This type of music is more likely to resonate with at-risk students compared to the traditional classical music we often associate with a school music program.



(2015, November 19). Retrieved November 15, 2018, from <https://www.theodysseyonline.com/hip-hop-as-global-phenomenon>

Student/Teacher Relationship

- At-risk kids have a poor working model of healthy relationships
- Music therapy helps promote a new working model healthy relationships via the client and therapist because sharing music requires vulnerability.
- In a school setting, a teacher has the potential to help a student create this new model as well.
- The teacher can exemplify what it looks like to have healthy relationship between an adolescent and an adult by taking the time to getting to know the student and investing in his/her life.

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Music on the Brain

Aids temporal order learning	Increases attention
Aids spatio temporal reasoning	Enhances creative thinking
Increase self efficacy	Helps memory
Stimulates visual, auditory, and motoric information	Aids executive functioning
	Increases self-confidence
	Helps auditory and verbal memory and processing

66% of public school teachers believe schools are taking time away from the arts

1.3 million elementary school students do not receive music education

1.9 million secondary school student do not receive music education

26% of Latinos received arts education in childhood

28% of African-Americans received arts education in childhood

59% of White students have access to arts education

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