

7 Strategies for Teaching General Music to Students with Autism

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Kinetic Development | Studio Time with Mr. B | Start Now Series

www.kevinbrawley.com | www.studiotimewithmrb.com | www.startnowseries.com

1) **Take your teacher hat off**

Discover which windows of communication are open and jump through them. Find new ways to solve problems.

Use empathy, observation, common sense – not discipline.

Reframe behavior that used to be negative into a positive.

Redirect using a musical task, then provide a musical reward.

2) **Frame out the chaos**

Allow exploration and encourage curiosity.

Be the most exciting thing in the room.

Speak to assistants about different levels of tolerance for behavior in your room

3) **Keep it Moving**

Plan little disruptions of routine.

Practice movement activities so students know when to return to focusing. Use movement that has no musical connection at all.

4) **Introducing: The Autoharp!**

Use for accompaniment when teaching songs.

Encourage instrumental exploration.

Use color coding to assist with proper accompaniment.

Use for steady beat assessment.

Choose songs intentionally that fit into your long range curriculum plans.

5) **Manipulatives, materials, and lessons**

Download resources at www.kevinbrawley.com/files/AUresources.zip

6) **Teaching vs. Learning**

Celebrate small successes.

Use positive reinforcement.

7) **Inclusion tips**

Use their names often.

Call on them when you are certain they know the answer.

Check in consistently with them.

Use rotating peer buddies to promote social interactions with the whole class. Emphasize the similarities as opposed to the differences.