



Guest Editorial

imagine.magazine

Petra Kern

Editor-in-Chief, *imagine*, Santa Barbara, California

imagine is an annual online magazine dedicated to enhancing the lives of young children and their families by sharing information related to music therapy. With an emphasis on evidence-based practice, *imagine* showcases innovations in clinical practice, explores current research, suggests intervention ideas, and provides a plethora of resources presented in an engaging multimedia format. We invite you to access *imagine* at www.imagine.musictherapy.biz and take advantage of a benefit of our collaboration with ECMMA.

Starting with a four-page newsletter published by the Early Childhood Music Therapy Network of the National Association of Music Therapy in 1996, *imagine* grew into a full-fledged online magazine with currently 130 pages. Over the past four years, *imagine* (disseminated initially by the American Music Therapy Association and since 2013 by De La Vista Publisher) has produced more than 250 contributions with over 130 audio and video clips from authors around the world. Free 24/7 access, an interactive digital viewing mode,

and continued implementation of innovations, makes *imagine* a unique resource for music therapists, early childhood music educators, daycare professionals, administrators, and parents.

Each *imagine* issue includes an editorial and the "Wisdom" section, which spotlights the knowledge, expertise, and insights from senior music therapy colleagues. The "Report" section highlights recent meetings and events as well as collaborations and policies affecting music therapy practices. Under "Reflections," authors critically review latest trends and observations such as implementing family-centered practice, or why music should be an essential early childhood experience.

The "Featured Multimedia Article" addresses current topics such as *Incorporating Music into Daily Routines: Family Education and Integration* (Walworth, 2010), *Sound Minds and ESL Parents: Encouraging Language and Love* (Peterson & Reuer, 2011), and *Coming into Being in Music: Clive Robbins' Work with Young Children* (Guerrero, Marcus, & Turry, 2012). *Next Generation Music Therapy:*

Clinical Applications of YouTube Videos (Pitts & Meyer, 2013) is this year's topic. Current and archived articles such as these are available at the *imagine* website.

The "Research" section offers an annual early childhood research snapshot that summarizes research outcomes related to music education, music psychology, music neurology, and music therapy. Other research articles provide summaries of prominent findings and their application to music therapy practice. In the "Practice" section, authors describe innovative practices such as the *Toddler Rock* program at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, and a literature review on how to structure an early childhood music therapy group.

The popular "Intervention Ideas" section features step-by-step descriptions of implementing goal-oriented music activities. Materials, scores, sound files, and adaptations to specific skill levels accompany each intervention idea.

The "Color of Us" series brings cultural awareness and competencies to the *imagine* readers. It currently features 37 countries by spotlighting the demographics, development of music therapy, common approaches to music therapy, and prominent publications for each country. The "Photo Stories" section features three pictures and a short description about what happens in a music therapy session. *imagine's* audio/video podcasts are wide-ranging and reflect the perspectives, knowledge, and vision of practitioners, researchers, and

educators from various fields.

New in 2013, the "Parents Can" section suggests music ideas for learning in the home environment. Another addition is the "Early Childhood Music Education Program" section offering information on each program's intention, key concepts, and applications for music therapy. Finally, each issue includes a resource section of high quality items such as early childhood music blogs, music apps, digital international music libraries, parent networks, as well as an annual publication list and book reviews that include personalized audio bookmarks.

We are pleased to share this online magazine with you, as we all are embarking on the same journey of delivering high quality services to families with young children. May sharing our resources and productive collaborations bring us all a step closer to providing children and families with a stronger start into the future through our common denominator of music. Just imagine the possibilities! 🌸

About the Author: Petra Kern, Ph.D., MT-DMtG, MT-BC, MTA, owner of Music Therapy Consulting, is online professor at Marylhurst University and the University of Louisville, and is the Past President of the World Federation of Music Therapy (WFMT). She has a clinical and research focus on young children with autism spectrum disorders, inclusion, and parent/teacher training. Contact: petrakern@musictherapy.biz

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