

# MUSIC PATHWAYS

## Introducing Music Therapy from SPEECH PATHways!

### What is Music Therapy?

The American Music Therapy Association defines Music Therapy as “an established healthcare profession that uses music to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals of all ages.” Music therapy is said to improve quality of life for persons who are well and meets the needs of children and adults with disabilities or illnesses. Music therapy interventions can be creatively designed to meet specific, individual needs.



### Benefits of Music Therapy

- Stimulates brain development
- Improves imitation and turn-taking
- Improves vocal/verbal expression
- Improves communication
- Improves listening skills
- Helps with coordination and balance
- Helps people express feelings
- Helps focus attention
- Calms and centers people
- Benefits children and adults of all ages!

### What is Music Pathways?

Music Pathways is music therapy in action at SPEECH PATHways, in which the best of speech and musical interventions are integrated in a therapeutic and fun environment. We are very excited to welcome certified music therapist Melissa Ward to the SPEECH PATHways team and to be working closely with local performer Monte Leister on a kids' music CD for Spring 2008 release.

### About Miss Melissa

Melissa Ward holds a degree from Elizabethtown College, which is well-known for its sound and well-rounded music therapy program. She completed her internship at Kennedy Krieger School—an institute known throughout the world for work with individuals who have disabilities. Melissa obtained her credentials, MT-BC (Music Therapist - Board Certified), from the Certification Board for Music Therapists which upholds standards that are equal to or above licensure standards.

Melissa is also an active member of the American Music Therapy Association. Miss Melissa provides assessments, individual and group classes and adaptive music lessons. She is skilled in piano, guitar, chorus, voice, and piano pedagogy. With her strong background in the assessment and treatment of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and children with other developmental and cognitive delays, Melissa is a wonderful addition to the SPEECH PATHways team!

### **About Monte**

Monte Leister provides “Music with Monte”—his own energized brand of wholesome and fun kids’ music—throughout the Central Maryland area and in his children’s ministry. Monte and SPEECH PATHways have teamed up to produce an energetic and fun CD of music that is guaranteed to entertain and get kids moving. The CD is scheduled for a Spring 2008 release; meanwhile, Monte will be offering free demos to some lucky folks who attend area appearances this Fall and Winter. A portion of the proceeds from CD sales will benefit the SPEECH PATHways Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing speech therapy to families in need. Be sure to stop by and say “Hi” to Monte for your free demo CD! Check the SPEECH PATHways website at [www.speechpathways.net](http://www.speechpathways.net) for continued updates or join our email list for the latest info. Find out more about Monte at his blogspot: [musicwithmonte.blogspot.com](http://musicwithmonte.blogspot.com).

### **About SPEECH PATHways**

SPEECH PATHways is the only comprehensive pediatric speech-language pathology clinic in Carroll County, Maryland, offering services since 1999. Owner Kimberly A. Bell, M.S., CCC-SLP, has been a speech and language pathologist for over ten years. She and her associates offer a wide variety of specialized pediatric programs in addition to traditional speech and language services. Each SPEECH PATHways therapist holds a master’s degree and a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; each is also trained or certified in various specialty treatments and techniques. SPEECH PATHways strives to be on the cutting edge of pediatric intervention. Because of the specialty services offered, clients travel from Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the Washington, DC, area to the SPEECH PATHways clinic. Visit us online at [www.speechpathways.net](http://www.speechpathways.net).

### **About the SPEECH PATHways Foundation**

The ability to communicate is one of the most critical aspects in life. Communication disorders are among the most common disabilities in the United States. A child’s overall future and success can be improved greatly through early identification and intervention of communication disorders (ASHA, 2006). The SPEECH PATHways Foundation seeks to open the doors to high-quality private speech-language pathology services and programs for the children of Carroll County and the surrounding areas, to ensure a brighter childhood and future. Find out more at [www.speechpathwaysfoundation.org](http://www.speechpathwaysfoundation.org).