

China

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Snapshot

Area

9,608,300 square kilometers
(including 32 provinces, autonomous
regions and 2 special administrative
regions)

Population

1,295,330,000 (November 2005
estimate)

Official Language

Chinese

Ethnic Groups

56 ethnic groups

Median Age

32.36 years

Children under 5

68, 978,374

Source

National Bureau of Statistics of
China. [http://www.stats.gov.cn/
index.htm](http://www.stats.gov.cn/index.htm)



**"Working for children's health and happiness makes us happier than we ever
thought we could be."
- Zhongzhi Li**

Demographics

According to information from the 2006 National Census (<http://www.cdpc.org.cn/english/home.htm>), there are 211,300 children between the ages 0-5 with the following conditions (in order of frequency): multiple disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental disorders, speech impairments, physically disabilities, hearing impairments and visually impairments.

Music therapy practitioners are working with young children in music therapy centers, rehabilitation centers for children with disabilities, special schools, hospitals, kindergartens and schools. Music therapists are serving children with developmental disabilities, behavioral disorders, learning disorders, communication disorders, sensory impairments, and medical conditions.

Background Information

In China, music therapy was first explored in 1985. The first music therapy education program was established at the Central Conservatory of Music in 1999, offering music therapy programs on undergraduate and graduate levels. Three additional music colleges and two medical colleges established

music therapy programs at the same time.

The Chinese Professional Music Therapist Association was established in 2007. This association offers a non-degree music therapy certification for musicians, music students, medical doctors, nurses, and psychotherapists.

Most of the Chinese people would consider music therapy as psychotherapy. The Chinese psychology society also recognizes music therapy as an important part of psychotherapy, because early music therapy practice in China focused mainly on psychotherapy. There is a steady growth of music therapy in China. However, obtaining recognition and support of the profession by the government is proceeding slowly.

Common Approaches

Music therapy approaches for early childhood include Behavioral Music Therapy and the Creative Music Therapy Model. Music therapy sessions include music listening, music playing, instrumental exploration, and song creation. Music education approaches such as Orff -Schulwerk are also commonly used with young children.

Prominent Publications

The following references are a selection of Chinese Master's thesis related to young children.

- ✿ Lin Su (1997). A Case Study of an Autistic Child.
- ✿ Bing Wang (2003). Orff Music Therapy on The Efficacy of Children with Autism.
- ✿ Mingming Liu (2003). Recreative Music Therapy on Appropriate Emotion of Mentally Retarded Children.
- ✿ Lu Han (2009). Multiple Stimulus on Mentally Retarded Children.
- ✿ Huayu Li (2009). MIT and TS for Cerebral Palsy and Speech Rehabilitation.



About the Author

Mingming Liu works as a lecturer at the Music Therapy Centre of the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China. She is a member of the U.S. based Association for Music & Imagery. Her practice and research focuses on music psychotherapy, maternal and child health, and children with developmental disorders.

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