

Taiwan

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Snapshot

Area

36,191 square kilometers. Slightly smaller than the states of Maryland and Delaware combined. Located in Eastern Asia; islands bordering the East China Sea, Philippine Sea, South China Sea, and Taiwan Strait, north of the Philippines, off the southeastern coast of China.

Population

23,119,772 (December 2009)

Official Language

Mandarin Chinese

Ethnic Groups

Taiwanese (including Hakka) 84%, mainland Chinese 14%, indigenous 2%

Median Age

37 years (2010 estimate)

Children under 5

992,781 (April 2010)

Sources

Taiwan Ministry of the Interior
www.moi.gov.tw

CIA. The World Factbook. Taiwan.
www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tw.html



**“Children are educated by what the grown-up is not by his talk.”
– Carl Jung**

Demographics

There are approximately 50 music therapists in Taiwan, mostly trained overseas in the U.S.A., Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, and Australia. The booming student population studying music therapy abroad now reveals the growing demands for music therapy services in the country. Many of the students will come back to Taiwan and devote themselves to the profession of music therapy in the near future.

The Music Therapy Association of Taiwan (MTAT) was established in 1996, supported by people who were enthusiastic about promoting music therapy and were from different professions including music therapy, music performance, medical science, special education, psychology, and counseling. The mission of MTAT is to promote music therapy by offering music therapy lectures and workshops, publishing periodicals, and making efforts in music therapy research.

In Taiwan, music therapists serve children with special needs when working with very young children. Music therapists respond to the demands of abused, hospitalized, and traumatized children as well. Music therapy services are offered in

a variety of settings, such as general hospitals, children’s hospitals, child treatment centers, rehabilitation clinics, early intervention programs, special education settings, and private practice. Funding for music therapy services for young children mostly comes from private pay. Other sources of funding include government funds, grants, and budgets of social welfare organizations.

Background Information

The MTAT is currently working towards official recognition of music therapy as a health care profession and for professional certification. The development of music therapy in the educational system has been seen as the most influential factor for formally introducing music therapy as a health care profession.

More than 15 universities offer elective music therapy courses in their departments of music, applied music, music education, special education, general education, early childhood education, clinical psychology, psychology and counseling, and occupational therapy. Tainan National University of the Arts (in the Department of Applied Music) is the only music therapy program in Taiwan to offer an undergraduate degree.

The program was established in 2004;

the graduates are working to meet the increasing demands for music therapy services. Non-degree music therapy interdisciplinary programs are offered in two universities in the educational system as well.

Common Approaches

Since most music therapists in Taiwan were trained all over the globe, the approaches applied to young children reflect a rich diversity of models, including behavioral music therapy, Nordoff-Robbins Creative Music Therapy, free improvisation, Neurologic Music Therapy (NMT), and approaches adapted from music education (i.e., Dalcroze, Orff-Schulwerk). Common techniques are singing, chanting, using music and movement, instrumental and vocal improvisation, instrument playing, song creation, and music listening.

Prominent Publications

The following publications are not exhaustive, but provide an overview of research in Taiwan. It is evident that increasing numbers of research publications support the effects of music therapy interventions in the field of early childhood.

- Chang, N. -W. (2010, May). *Music listening skill training for increasing auditory attention of cochlear implant recipient: A case report of pre-school boy*. Paper presented at the 2010 academic conference of Special Education and Professional Collaboration, National Taichung University, Taichung, ROC.
- Chang, N. -W. (2004). *Music therapy for children: Music therapy clinical experiences in Taiwan (in Chinese)*. Taipei, Taiwan: Psychological Publishing.
- Chang, N. -W. (2000). *Melodic teaching method of Chinese digital score for Autism*. Paper presented at the first National Congress of Early Intervention Program for Children with Developmental Disability, Taipei, Taiwan.
- Chien, T. -H., & Chen, S. -Y. (2007). The effect of music training on mandarin tone intelligibility for children with hearing impairments. *Bulletin of Special Education*, 32(2), 93-114.
- Gfeller, K., & Hsiao, F. - L. (2009, December). *Accommodating structured music instruction for pediatric cochlear implant recipients: A systematic analysis*. Paper presented at the Seventh Asia Pacific Symposium on Cochlear Implants and Related Sciences, Singapore.
- Hsiao, F. -L. (2008). Mandarin melody recognition by pediatric cochlear implant recipients. *Journal of Music Therapy*, 45(4), 390-404.
- Hsiao, F. -L., Gfeller, K., Huang, T. -S., & Hsu, H. -C. (2006, June). *Perception of familiar melodies by Taiwanese pediatric cochlear implant recipients who speak a tonal language*. Poster session presented at the 9th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and Related Sciences, Vienna, Austria.
- Hsieh, F. -N. (2010, June). *The role of music therapy in supporting a child with developmental delays and the parent facing challenges of child behavior and parental stress: A case report*. Poster session presented at Taiwanese Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 12th Annual Conference, Taipei, Taiwan.
- Hsieh, F. -N. (2010, June). *A case report of using songwriting to help a child with mild mental retardation in foster care express feelings*. Poster session presented at Taiwanese Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 12th Annual Conference, Taipei, Taiwan.
- Lin, F. -L. (2000). *The music therapy effect applied to early intervention of Down Syndrome children*. 2000 Annual Papers Collection of Early Intervention in Taiwan, 105.
- Lin, F. -L. (2001). *Music therapy for a boy with Asperger Syndrome: Creation and response*. 2001 Annual Papers Collection of Early Intervention in Taiwan, 58-59.
- Shih, C. -L., Chen, Y. -L., & Chen, C. -L. (2008, September). *The effect of music play group on attention of children with autism: A case study*. Poster session presented at The 9th National Congress of Early Intervention for Children with Developmental Delays, Taichung, Taiwan.



About the Author

Fu-Nien Hsieh has worked as a music therapist with children with special needs in Taiwan since 2000. She is currently the President of the Music Therapy Association of Taiwan.

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