

The application and exploration of music therapy at the Beijing School for the Blind

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Beijing school for the blind was founded by William in 1874. As the only one visually impaired school in Beijing, it is responsible for guiding the home delivery teaching and learning in regular classroom for the visually impaired students in the whole city. And it covers the nursery school, elementary school, junior school, high school and vocational high schools, with 300 students enrolled, 80 of them are in the regular class.

With the development of music therapy, the subject is gradually developed into many fields like the education, medical care, rehabilitation and pension. With more group music therapy practices in all kinds of schools and rehabilitation institutions, it caused more and more attention. Since 2011, Supported by Chinese Music Therapy Association, rehabilitation training of Beijing school for the blind has received extensive attention from teachers, students, parents and peer colleges and universities.

The music therapy is applied successfully in Beijing school for the blind, and until now, a third of the students have accepted professional music therapy. As the first starting course, group music therapy has won the praise from teachers, students and parents. In December 2014, Zhang Qiulan, the VicePrincipal, led four teachers, who are responsible for multiple handicapped students education, early education and home delivery teaching to study the visually impaired education rehabilitation in Perkins School for the Blind.

Music therapy is already used widely in special education abroad, we had deep communication with the peer music therapists in USA, to share our experience and solve the puzzle. This report will base on the music therapy development in both Beijing school for the blind and Perkins School for the Blind, and will discuss the application and discovery of music therapy in visually impaired school