Music has long been a source of oral language and learning, from the epic poems of Homer and Vergil to putting the cranial nerves to song as a mnemonic memorization tool. This experiential learning course provides children with intellectual disabilities with high-quality language enrichment through music education. Students will use a variety of songs, instruments, and other materials to engage children with intellectual disabilities ages birth-five in language-rich musical activities. In addition, families will have opportunities to engage with and connect to one another.

For the Fall 2018 semester, students will develop protocols for use in future semesters. The final product of the course will be several 45-minute protocols (songs, gestures, materials), which will be used for a practice run before the end of the semester. Future semesters will enroll children in semester-long music groups.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Development of preschool-aged song protocols
- Read and summarize literature related to music-based language enrichment
- Troubleshoot protocols through a “practice run” late in the semester
ASSESSMENT

• Completion of 45-minute song protocol (50%)
• Read and review three articles supporting (a) the use of music in language-enrichment activities and/or (b) parent or sibling isolation in families with children with IDD (25%)
• Participate in weekly check-ins re: activities, theoretical approaches, and evidence-based practice (25%)