



## ARTS | LEISURE

**Presentation Title: Using Music to Promote Skill Acquisition using the Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis**

**Speaker: Dr. Marlene Sotelo, BCBA-D, MT-BC, Executive Director, Els for Autism Foundation**

**Day One: March 23, 2023**

**Time: 3:45-4:45 p.m.**

### Abstract

Music can be enjoyed by all individuals regardless of their cognitive, communication, and physical abilities. It can serve as a motivator and reinforcer to promote participation and learning even in the most hard-to-reach children. Due to the activation of multiple areas of the brain when listening to and experiencing music, it can facilitate learning by organizing information, allowing for easier recall thereby reducing processing and responding time. Many children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are involved in therapeutic interventions based on the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA). This presentation will provide specific music-based activities and lessons to target skills commonly addressed in ABA-based programs. A literature review of the use of music in the field of ASD will be discussed followed by a description of easy-to-use songs and activities to incorporate into the classroom and clinical setting.

### Learning Objectives

- Participants will state three common goals in early skill acquisition programs along with a song or musical activity to teach the specified skill.
- Participants will state two ways that music promotes skill acquisition and how to collect data on those skills
- Participants will demonstrate an understanding of combining the principles of applied behavior analysis with music activities to promote skill acquisition

