



The Power of Music: Singing & Song Applications for Individuals with Aphasia or Dementia

Course Description: This 90-minute session will focus on the use of music and singing in helping individuals with aphasia and dementia. Information about Vermont's first Aphasia Choir will be shared along with ways to start your own choir.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe research in the use of Melodic Intonation Therapy with individuals with aphasia
2. Define the benefits of using music to enhance quality of life for individuals with dementia
3. Identify ways to start an aphasia choir

Agenda:

10:15-10:25 - Introduction

10:25-10:35 - Neurological correlates of speaking and singing

10:35-10:55 - Melodic Intonation Therapy: research and application

10:55-11:20 - Aphasia Choir models and ways to start one

11:20-11:35 - Benefits of music for individuals with dementia

11:35-11:45 - Questions and wrap up

Speaker: Karen McFeeters Leary, M.Ed., CCC-SLP, is a clinical speech-language pathologist at the University of Vermont Medical Center with 20 years' experience. She works with adults with communication and/or cognitive impairments status post stroke or traumatic brain injury. She specializes in voice diagnostic & treatment services for adults. Karen is also a singer/songwriter who has released three albums of original compositions and performed throughout the state.

Disclosure:

Financial: Karen Leary was paid a speaker fee by the Vermont Speech Language Hearing Association (VSHA) for this presentation. Karen Leary receives a salary for her work as a Speech Language Pathologist at the University of Vermont Medical Center.

Non-Financial: Karen Leary has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.