

# Volunteers needed...

**Musical Creativity in Autism: Exploring Growth through Collaborative Peer Interaction**  
Colorado State University

**Purpose of this study:** The purpose of this project will be to gather evidence regarding musical creativity of children with autism compared to their typical peers and to examine the impact of peer-to-peer interactions on musical creativity and social engagement. Specifically, this project will assess the impact of the interaction between typical students and students with ASD.



**Researchers:** This study will be conducted by Erik Johnson, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor of Music Education) and Blythe LaGasse, Ph.D., MT-BC (Associate Professor of Music Therapy).

**Who:** To be eligible for participation, individuals must:

- Use English as a primary language (either spoken or used in the home/school environment)
- Be between the ages of 9 and 14
- Have high functioning autism with no other known cognitive disability
- or-
- Have no known disability and enrolled in band, choir, or orchestra and/or has taken at least 6 months of private music instruction.

**Where:** University Center for the Arts – 1400 Remington Street, Fort Collins.

**What you will do:** Student participants will be asked to play rhythms, melodies, or free play on a marimba. Participants will also do this task with a peer who may or may not have autism. Participants will receive training on how to be a good collaborative partner. All participants will be interviewed after the music lesson to see how they think the lesson went. There is no cost to participate. Parents of students with autism will be asked to complete two short assessments of their child's social behaviors.

**If you wish to volunteer for this study, please contact:**

**Erik Johnson (Music Educator) (970) 491-4806 or [e.johnson@colostate.edu](mailto:e.johnson@colostate.edu)**  
**Blythe LaGasse (Music Therapist) (970) 491-4042 or [blagasse@colostate.edu](mailto:blagasse@colostate.edu)**

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