SELECTING EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR MUSIC & MEMORY® PROGRAM

Selecting program equipment is an integral part of launching a Music & Memory program. When you're ready to get started, the first thing you'll need to do is figure out, in a broad sense, what is best for your future participants.

Start by thinking about the kind of equipment that would work best for them. Equipment options range from portable MP3 players to home stereos to voice activated devices. What would they be most comfortable with? How do they enjoy music now?

Generally speaking, Music & Memory recommends a headphone experience because it's the most immersive and likely to maximize results, but don't let that limit you. If what you have is a home stereo and a set of speakers, then that will work as well provided you minimize distractions during the listening experience. You should also prioritize ease of use so that the listener and/or other caregivers have no trouble engaging with the music.

KEY QUESTIONS:

- Where will it be located?
- Who will have access?
- What is our budget?
- How's our WIFI?
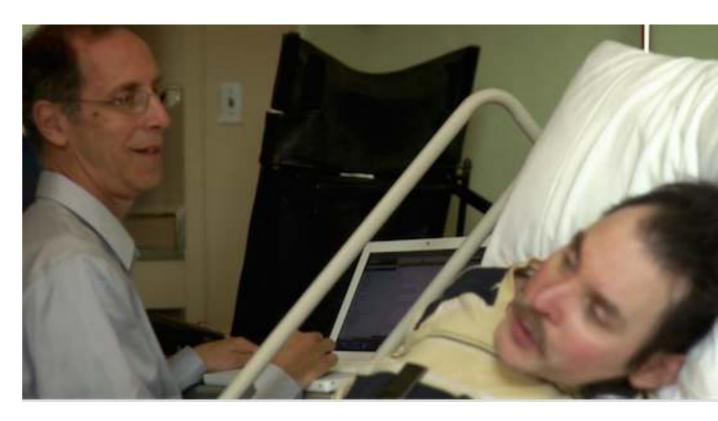- Do we need Bluetooth?

STEP ONE: A DEDICATED COMPUTER

As a first step, we recommend that you obtain a dedicated computer for your Music & Memory program, preferably a laptop for mobility during the music detective process (pictured right). This will help ensure the team has a way to sample music with participants and create playlists on the go.

Most laptops built in the last five years will be able to handle the tasks required for your Music & Memory program, including hosting a local MP3 library or accessing a cloud-based music library (e.g Spotify, Apple Music), and surfing the web for ideas and inspiration.

With that said, the laptop should have WIFI and printer access, as you will likely need both. Also, if you plan to use CD's as part of your MP3 library, we recommend you purchase one with a CD drive.

KEY QUESTIONS:

- Is the hard drive big enough?
- Does it have WIFI?
- Can it import CDs?
- Can it connect to a printer?

STEP TWO: SELECT A MUSIC PLAYER

Recommended non-streaming device:

SanDisk Clip Jam MP3 Player

- Very similar to iPod Shuffle
- Stores over 1000 songs
- Works with Windows or Mac libraries
- No WiFi needed
- Bluetooth "Sport" version available
- Affordable!! Get Pricing

Recommended streaming device:

Spotify Mighty Vibe

- Streams both Spotify and Amazon
- Stores 1,000 songs
- Works offline!!!
- No phone necessary
- Bluetooth enabled
- Costly! Get Pricing

STEP THREE: HEADPHONES & SPEAKERS

Recommended headphones:

KOSS UR-5B (or UR series)

- Durable
- Sounds great
- Inexpensive Get Pricing
- Lifetime guarantee
- NOTE: buy splitter cables to listen along!

Recommended bluetooth speaker:

iHome IBT82

- Durable
- Sounds great
- Easy to connect via bluetooth
- Long-lasting battery
- Lightweight
- Inexpensive! Get Pricing

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT OPTIONS

Recommended voice-activated device:

Amazon Echo Show

- Works with Amazon Unlimited
- Making playlists is easy with Alexa!
- Great for engagement
- Easy to make video calls
- Put favorite photos on display!
- Costly!! Get Pricing

Recommended tablet:

GrandPad

- Easy to use
- Simple navigation, colorful buttons, and large fonts
- Great for engagement
- Apps for calls, emails, photos, music, & games
- Live support 24/7 to answer questions
- Inexpensive! Get Pricing

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

MP3 Players are the most economical approach to creating music playlists, but generally take the most time to set up and get going. Streaming players offer much faster access to playlists but 1. are generally more expensive, and 2. require WIFI to access the music (unless the player also works offline).

Mobility is key. Anytime access to the music is the goal, thus portable players should be considered first, using fixed position devices (home stereos, computers, stationary voice-activated devices) only as necessary or for those who would benefit from extra engagement.

It's not about the number of devices but how often they are used that makes the difference.

Support for Certified Organizations

Support for program equipment is free for all certified organizations. Our team is happy to meet with you to help decide what equipment is best for your program.

Book an Appointment
Email Us
Additional Support Options

Music & Memory is a 501(c)(3)
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EIN# 27-2098431