

ANCHORED IN MUSIC:
FINDING STABILITY AMONGST THE WAVES



WRAMTA 2026
April 9-12 | Berkeley, CA

The Western Region of the AMTA

presents a 5-credit CMTE opportunity

Parent Coaching of Music Interventions (PaCoMI) to Serve Autistic Children Transformative Education in Music Therapy: Anchoring Our Practices in Equity

04/9/2026 from 9:00am-2:00pm

1. Abstract:

This CMTE course will train experienced professionals in a parent coaching model of music interventions, PaCoMI. Parent coaching is a structured practice to share evidence-based interventions with parents. Through PaCoMI, created and investigated by the presenter, we share music interventions with parents of autistic children. Attendees will learn the definition of parent coaching and its distinctions from other types of family participation and training. Attendees will also learn the structure of the PaCoMI program by analyzing videos of this program and will practice the strategies through live simulations.

2. Description:

This CMTE course will train experienced professionals in a parent coaching model for parents of autistic children that was created and investigated by the presenter (Anonymous, 2018a, 2018b, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023). Inclusion of parents in music therapy sessions and the informal sharing of skills with them have been apparent in the music therapy literature for several years (e.g., Jacobsen et al., 2014; Jacobsen & Thompson, 2016; Oldfield & Flower, 2008). Formally sharing music interventions with parents through parent coaching seems a logical extension of such work. Coaching of parenting skills, as opposed to training or instruction (i.e., providing information only), has shown better results in parent-mediated models (Nevill, Lecavalier, & Keyes, 2018; Ratliff-Black & Therrien, 2020). In music therapy, parent coaching is an emerging practice with limited research in the autistic community (Anonymous, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2023). Parent and coach are considered partners in the process of supporting the child (Rogers et al., 2019). The Parent Coaching of Music Interventions (PaCoMI) model was initially based on the Parent-Early Start Denver Model (P-ESDM). The P-ESDM is a naturalistic developmental behavioral intervention (NDBI) for autistic children, with substantial research support (Rogers et al., 2012, 2018, 2020). Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Interventions (NDBIs) are intervention approaches that incorporate behavioral and learning science principles within developmentally

appropriate practices, environments, and relationships where children are typically raised (Schreibman et al., 2015).

3. Objectives and Domain References:

- "1. Participants will explain the definition of parent coaching and its differences with other training models (CBMT 2B-1 to 5; CBMT 2C.1 to 3; CBMT 2D-2 and 3)
2. Participants will describe at least 3 coaching principles (CBMT 2D-2 and 3)
3. Participants will identify the 5 coaching stages (CBMT 2D-2 and 3)
4. Participants will show appropriate feedback skills within a parent coaching simulation. (CBMT 2D-7)"

4. Prerequisites:

MT-BC with at least 3 years of experience.

5. Qualification and Credentials:

Eugenia is Associate Professor at Arizona State University. Her clinical and research interests are focused on supporting autistic children and their families, developing parent coaching models, empowering survivors of domestic violence, and investigating music therapy student development and music neuroscience.

6. Opportunity Schedule and Format:

Schedule:

8:00 to 8:50 Guiding Principles (PowerPoint presentation)

A. Coaching is not teaching! Definition of parent coaching, impact, and research evidence

B. Coaching principles (play partner, sensory needs, goals, reciprocity, and structure)

C. Coaching stages (Observation, Joint planning, Action, Reflection, Feedback)

9:00 to 10:45 Program Discussion (Video examples): Review of the PaCoMI program (8 sessions) and Documentation. Discussion of session structure and types of music interventions

11:00 to 11:50 Simulations of techniques

12:00 to 12:30 pm: Wrap-up Discussion

12:30 to 12:50 pm: Closure, final evaluation, and feedback

7. Number of CMTE's: 5

8. Cost: TBD

9. Cancellation and Refund Policy:

Presenter Agreement

Cancellation Rights and Responsibilities: Cancellation of this agreement may be brought about by one or the other part under the following conditions and circumstances:

- By WRAMTA, if insufficient enrollment exists to permit the fulfillment of financial obligations incurred under this agreement. Notice must be given to PRESENTER at least one week in advance of the date of the program.
- By PRESENTER, if serious illness or a serious emergency arises. Cancellation under those circumstances must be with consultation with WRAMTA at the earliest possible time.

WRAMTA Refund Policy

Activities are planned in advance based on the number of registrants. Full refunds cannot be made. Refunds for cancellations of any conference activities (including trainings, Institutes, and CMTE courses) are available by written request only and must be emailed to the Conference Chair. 80% of fees will be refunded if the request is emailed no later than one month prior to Opening Session. 50% if the request is emailed no later than the start of Opening Session. No requests will be accepted thereafter. Refunds are processed within 45 days after the conclusion of the conference.

10. Statement of Relationship:

Parent Coaching of Music Interventions (PaCoMI) to Serve Autistic Children is approved by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT) for **5** credits. The Western Region chapter of AMTA, P-060, maintains responsibility for program quality and adherence to CBMT policies and criteria.