

# Study: Music may close achievement gap between poor, affluent students

By Rebecca Klein, Huffington Post

Closing the achievement gap between low-income and affluent students could be as simple as *do-re-mi*.

In a study out Tuesday from Northwestern University, researchers looked at the impact of music education on at-risk children's nervous systems and found that music lessons could help them develop language and reading skills. The study is the first to document the influence of after-school music education on the brains of disadvantaged children, as opposed to affluent children receiving private lessons.

Researchers from the Auditory Neuroscience Laboratory at Northwestern spent two summers with children in Los Angeles who were receiving music lessons through Harmony Project, a nonprofit organization providing free music education to low-income students. In order to document how music education changed children's brains, students were hooked up to a neural probe that allowed researchers to see how children "distinguished similar speech sounds, a neural process that is linked to language and reading skills," according to a press release.

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