

Behavioral Coding of Children's Social Engagement in a Group Musical Setting

Recent research has highlighted the potential for active music making to facilitate social engagement in children. I am interested in identifying the stimulus features that maximize children's engagement in a musical activity. I am currently collaborating with a Vanderbilt University researcher who will be collecting data this spring utilizing two different types of rhythmic group activities with groups of preschool children, and she will be providing me with video. In my past research, I have used behavioral coding from video to examine individual children's social engagement (e.g. looking behavior, singing participation, smiles) during different types of musical activities, but I have never coded these behaviors from video taken in group settings. Our goal for the summer research program is two-fold: to develop a video coding scheme which captures relevant social behaviors, and to complete double-coding of all participant videos with high intercoder reliability.



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