

Format and Content of the Study

The study was carried out at both year 4 and year 8, and involved both singing and keyboard tasks.

Samples of videos of four different one-to-one tasks results were viewed as follows:

Year 4

Task Title	Reference Number	Group	No. of tapes viewed	% of total sample
Sing Song	MUS/1/48/O/1996	A	100	20%
Keyboard	MUS/3/48/O/1996	A	98	20%
Vocal Sizzle*	MUS/17/48/O/1996	C	47	10%
Keyboard Rhythms*	MUS/27/4/O/1996	B	45	10%

Total viewed 290

Year 8

Task Title	Reference Number	Group	No. of tapes viewed	% of total sample
Sing Song	MUS/1/48/O/1996	A	85	20%
Keyboard	MUS/3/48/O/1996	A	43	10%
Keyboard Patterns*	MUS/8/48/O/1996	B	44	10%
Vocal Sizzle*	MUS/17/48/O/1996	C	41	10%

Total viewed 213

The tasks marked * are link tasks, and it is accepted that these will not be identified in any reports or articles arising from this study.

The original NEMP marking was somewhat broad, such as "mostly or fully in tune", "mostly or fully in rhythm" or "not attempted" (Sing Song); or in the case of Keyboard Patterns (Year 8) as "success throughout" or "some success". With such broad categories, boundaries between them were also broad, as well as to some degree subjective. More importantly for this study, it was not the concern of the NEMP markers to determine what musical factors resulted in a child being marked as having "some success" rather than "success throughout" in a task other than that it was not quite right. It is to identify some of these musical factors, to identify in what way a task performance is wrong, that is the concern of this study.

Data from each task area in the main part of this study is presented in the following format:

Year 4

Description

Table(s)

Column graph(s)

Comments

Year 8

Description

Table(s)

Column graph(s)

Comments

Comparisons and conclusions

Note: On occasions the performance of a child would be interrupted in the course of a task, or in some way disturbed; or the teacher would abort the exercise. In one case the video went blank. This sort of aberration accounts for the discrepancies in numbers in some of the tasks.