# Year 8

## Sing Song - 1/48/O Group A

Initially, a batch of 43 tapes was viewed, but it was subsequently felt that a bigger sample would give better results. So a second batch of 42 tapes was viewed. At this stage, Eva Schwanen-Lilley, who was scheduled to work on another focus of the study, withdrew from the course and the project. It was therefore decided to incorporate some of the work of that focus into this one. Accordingly, some additional information was extracted from the second batch of tapes. The data is therefore presented as batch 1 and batch 2 respectively, and then the items that are common to both are put together in combined data of both batches.

### Pitch Characteristics, Sing Song 1/48/O Batch 1 Year 8

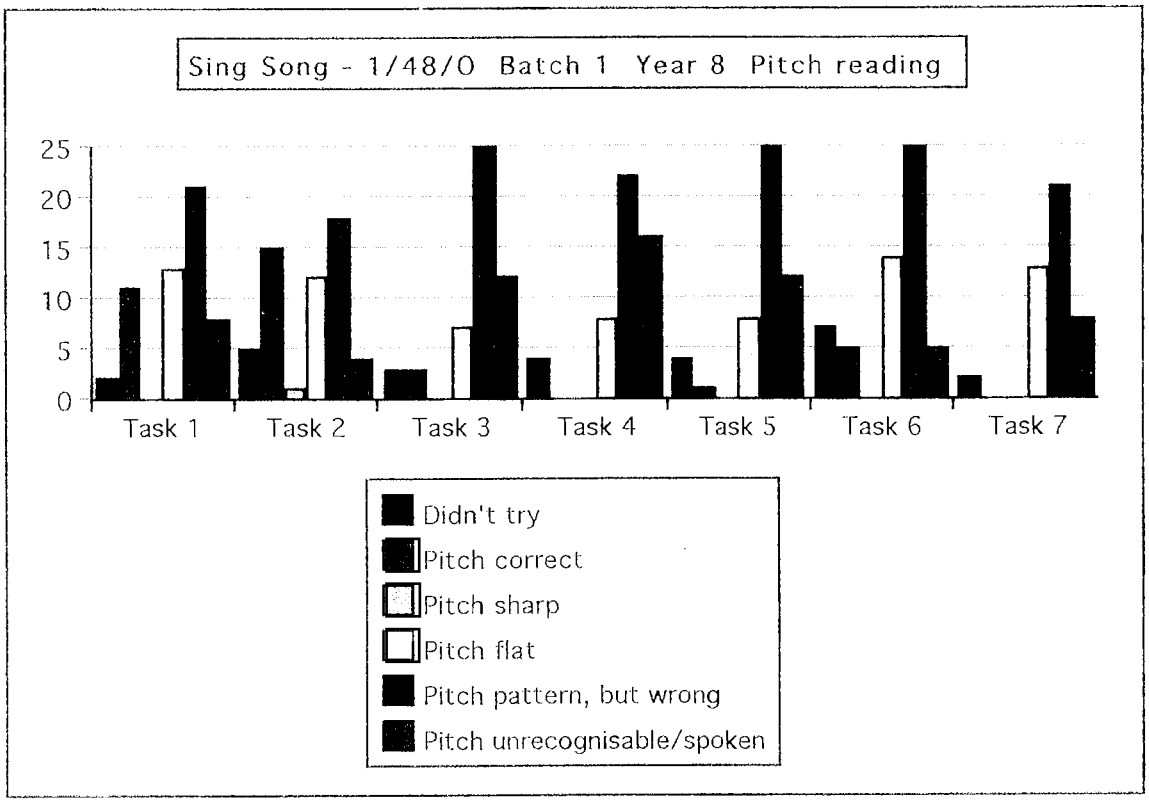
**Description:**

In Batch 1 of Sing Song at Year 8, the same factors were isolated in the children's performances as in the Year 4 study, namely:

- The pitch of the melody is sung accurately
- It is at a wrong tessitura (flat or sharp)
- Some notes are wrong while the general tune is recognisable. Examples of this
  are -
  (1) the melodic contour is contracted, i.e. lower notes are sharpened and/or higher notes flattened
  (2) mispitched note(s) put out subsequent pitch accuracy
  (3) individual notes are mispitched
- Pitch is unrecognisable in relation to the given tune, or is spoken

**Table 10 - Sing Song 1/48/O Batch 1 Year 8 Pitch reading n = 42**

| | Didn't try | Pitch correct | Pitch sharp | Pitch flat | Pitch pattern, but wrong | Pitch unrecognisable /spoken |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Task 1 | 2 | 11 | 0 | 13 | 21 | 8 |
| Task 2 | 5 | 15 | 1 | 12 | 18 | 4 |
| Task 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 25 | 12 |
| Task 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 22 | 16 |
| Task 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 25 | 12 |
| Task 6 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 14 | 25 | 5 |
| Task 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 21 | 8 |




**Comments:**

1. A relatively small number didn't try these tasks. It was noticed that many children thought and hestitated for a long time before attempting a particular task. This accounts for the different numbers of *Didn't try* for individual tasks.
2. A reasonable number sang in pitch for the first two tasks, after which very few succeeded. However, the *Pitch pattern, but wrong* category was

subsequently big, indicating the number who made errors within an otherwise recognisable pitch pattern.
3. Numbers in the *Pitch flat* category were high, as with Year 4 children.
4. The numbers in the *Pitch unrecognisable/spoken* category are interesting. Tasks 3, 4 and 5 posed difficulty, as they did with the Year 4 children. The relatively high number in Task 1 is best explained by the observation that many were finding their voices and, especially with the boys, unable to establish the tessitura of their singing. There was also initial embarrassment to be overcome.
5. The initial note of task 6 was most usually started in tune, but then flattened, as did subsequent notes.
6. Task 7 was interesting. Most recognised it, and coped with the initial leap, even if it was most often wrong. The fairly big number of *Pitch flat* came from singing the first note flat, and then all subsequent below pitch.
7. Note that a many children who have a sense of pitch contour, have very little specific sense of pitch.

## Rhythm Characteristics, Sing Song 1/48/O Batch 1 Year 8

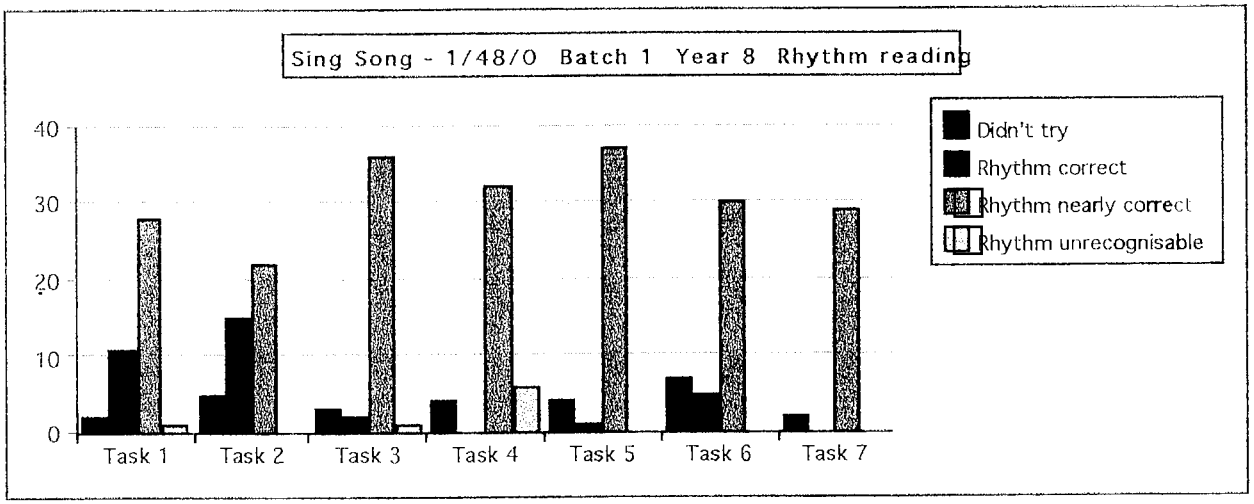
**Description:**

In Batch 1 of Sing Song at Year 8, the following factors were isolated:

- Rhythm correct
- Rhythm nearly correct
- Rhythm unrecognisable

**Table 14 - Sing Song 1/48/O Batch 1 Year 8 Rhythm reading n = 42**

| | Rhythm correct | Rhythm nearly correct | Rhythm unrecognisable |
|---|---|---|---|
| Task 1 | 11 | 28 | 1 |
| Task 2 | 15 | 22 | 0 |
| Task 3 | 2 | 36 | 1 |
| Task 4 | 0 | 32 | 6 |
| Task 5 | 1 | 37 | 0 |
| Task 6 | 5 | 30 | 0 |
| Task 7 | 0 | 29 | 0 |




**Comments:**

The most striking feature of the rhythm performances is that in only very few cases was the rhythm unrecognisable. *Rhythm wrong, but pattern present* was originally included as a category, but registered a zero score, so is omitted.

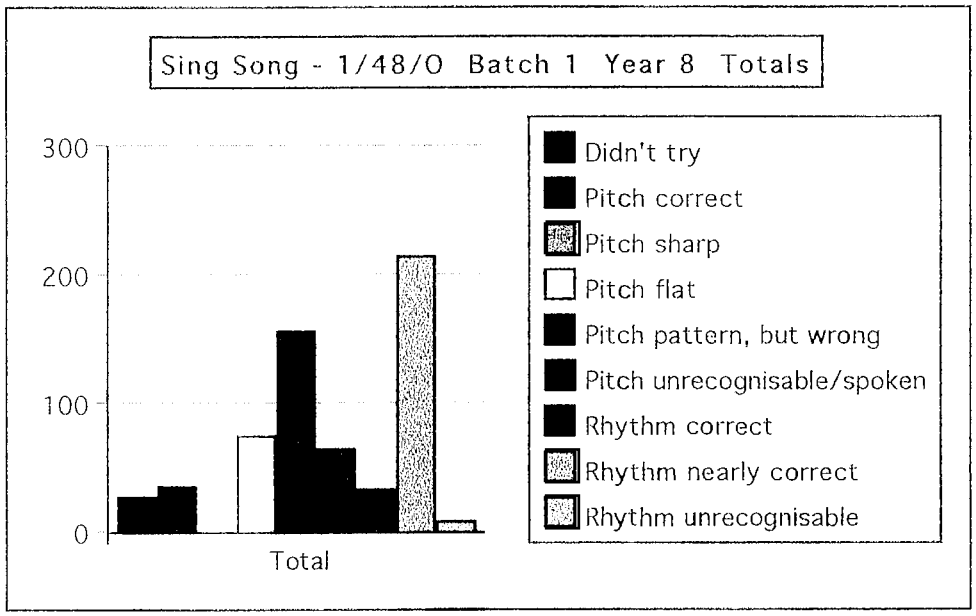
## Pitch and Rhythm Characteristics, Sing Song 1/48/O, Batch 1 Year 4 Totals

**Description:**

The overall comparison of the various pitch and rhythmic factors is presented for Batch 1. The possible maximum total in any category here is 294 (n x (the number of tasks)).

**Table 15 - Sing Song 1/48/O Batch 1 Year 8 Totals n = 42**

| | Didn't try | Pitch correct | Pitch sharp | Pitch flat | Pitch pattern, but wrong | Pitch unrecognisable/spoken | Rhythm correct | Rhythm nearly correct | Rhythm unrecognisable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 27 | 35 | 1 | 75 | 157 | 65 | 34 | 214 | 8 |




**Comments:**

The total *Pitch correct*, together with *Pitch pattern, but wrong* is 65% of the possible total compared with *Rhythm correct* with *Rhythm nearly correct* at 84%. By the criteria used in this study, the pitch results are much superior to those in the NEMP results categories.

## Pitch Characteristics, Sing Song 1/48/O Batch 2 Year 8

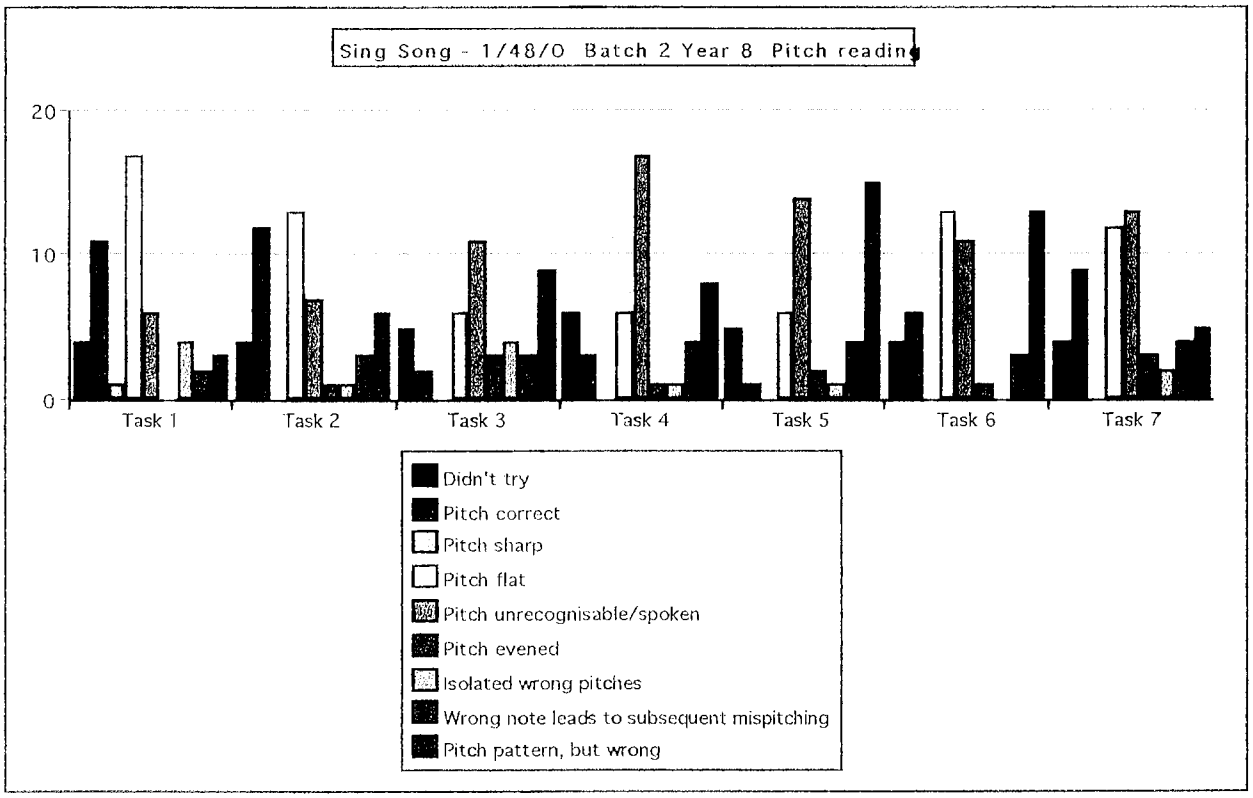
**Description:**

The second batch of Sing Song 1/48/O Year 8 tapes was viewed to further validify and to reinforce the results of the first sample. The opportunity was also taken to refine aspects of pitch reading that had been noticed but not specifically noted in the first batch, namely, the tendency of children to even out the pitch peaks (flatten the highs and sharpen the lows) in their singing, those who sang isolated wrong pitches, and those who sang a wrong pitch that put out the pitching of subsequent notes. The aspects of pitch reading that are included in table 16 are:

- The pitch of the melody is sung accurately
- It is at a wrong tessitura (flat or sharp)
- Some notes are wrong while the general tune is recognisable.
- The melodic contour is contracted, i.e. lower notes are sharpened and/or higher notes flattened
- Individual notes are mispitched
- Mispitched note(s) put out subsequent pitch accuracy
- A pitch pattern is present, but is not the one given
- Pitch is unrecognisable in relation to the given tune, or is spoken

**Table 16 - Sing Song 1/48/O Batch 2 Year 8 Pitch reading n = 43**

| | Didn't try | Pitch correct | Pitch sharp | Pitch flat | Pitch unrecog-nisable/ spoken | Pitch evened | Isolated wrong pitches | Wrong note leads to subsequent mispitching | Pitch pattern, but wrong |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Task 1 | 4 | 11 | 1 | 17 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Task 2 | 4 | 12 | 0 | 13 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Task 3 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| Task 4 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| Task 5 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 14 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 15 |
| Task 6 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 13 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 13 |
| Task 7 | 4 | 9 | 0 | 12 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 |




**Comments:**

The pattern of results generally follows that obtained in the first batch of Year 8 children, with the high proportions of *Pitch unrecognisable/spoken* , especially in tasks 4, 5 and 7. *Pitch flat* again predominates, with *Pitch sharp* almost non-existent. The numbers who registered *Pitch correct* is considerably higher than in Batch 1,

but this is countered by the smaller numbers who registered *Pitch pattern, but wrong* .

The three new factors did not claim big numbers, and are hardly enough upon which to draw any conclusions. They do, though, offer a few details of the types of pitch errors.

- The three who evened the pitch in task 3, for example, did so by slightly sharpening the 'E' in each case, and singing 'G' in place of the upper 'A'. The result was almost a monotone, but there was enough of the correct contour to put these performances into this category rather than *Pitch unrecognisable/spoken.*
- While it is easy to sing an isolated wrong pitch in task 3, one may wonder how, if there is any sense of contour, it is possible to sing a wrong pitch in task 1. The 'D' in bar three was the offender, being sung by all four as 'E'.
- *Wrong note leads to subsequent mispitching* took a variety of forms. For example, in task 1, the two were otherwise good readers, but probably had a F major set in mind when they sang the 'E' as 'D', which took them to 'C' for the last note. In task 4, a harmonic feel and sense of D major tonality (despite the G major key signature) probably led to the first note of the last bar to be sung as 'E', which then fell to the tonic note 'D'.

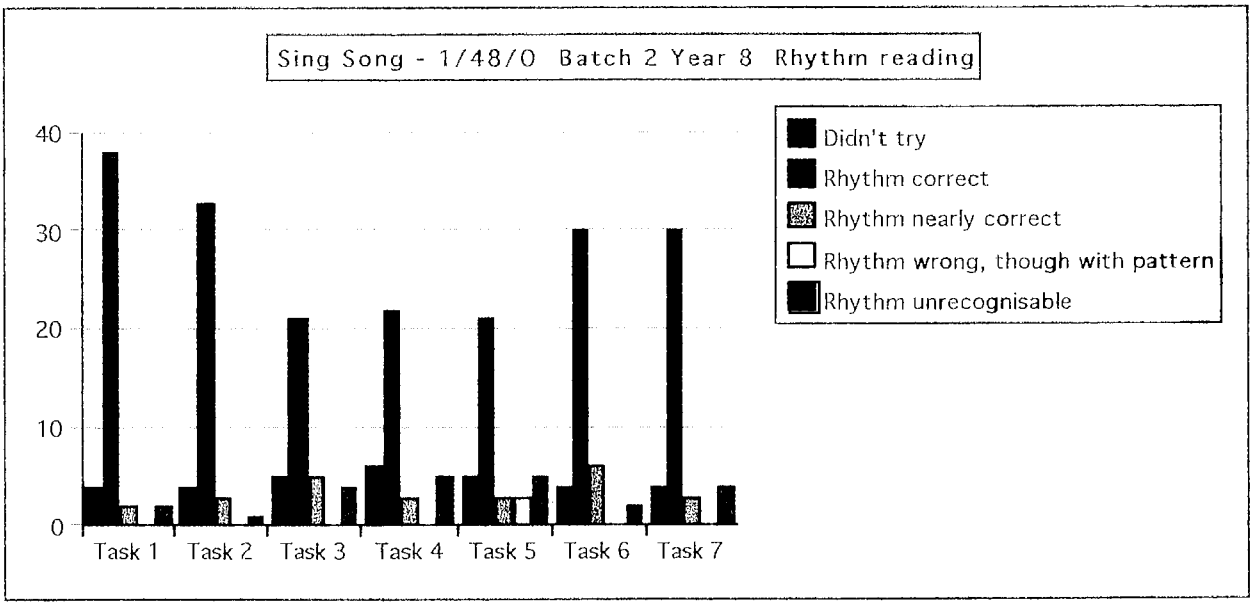
## Rhythm Characteristics, Sing Song 1/48/O Batch 2 Year 8

**Description:**

The category *Rhythm wrong, though with pattern* is included in batch 2, only because of the three recorded in task 5 (recall that this category was omitted from batch 1 because there were no cases). Otherwise the categories are the same as in batch 1.

**Table 17 - Sing Song 1/48/O Batch 2 Year 8 Rhythm reading n = 43**

| | Didn't try | Rhythm correct | Rhythm nearly correct | Rhythm wrong, though with pattern | Rhythm unrecognisable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Task 1 | 4 | 38 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Task 2 | 4 | 33 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Task 3 | 5 | 21 | 5 | 0 | 4 |
| Task 4 | 6 | 22 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Task 5 | 5 | 21 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Task 6 | 4 | 30 | 6 | 0 | 2 |
| Task 7 | 4 | 30 | 3 | 0 | 4 |




**Comments:**

The most striking feature is obviously the large number who got the rhythm correct. Two explanations are put forward. First, this sample was in most respects better than that in batch 1, especially in that they generally approached the tasks with greater confidence. Secondly, it probably highlights the subjectivity of the assessments. In this study only the one person viewed and assessed the various factors, this being exacerbated by the considerable time gap between viewing batch 1, and deciding to obtain and view the tapes of batch 2. The criteria control that was applied for the NEMP marking was not used in this study.

## Pitch and Rhythm Characteristics of Sing Song 1/48/O Batch 2 Year 8, Totals

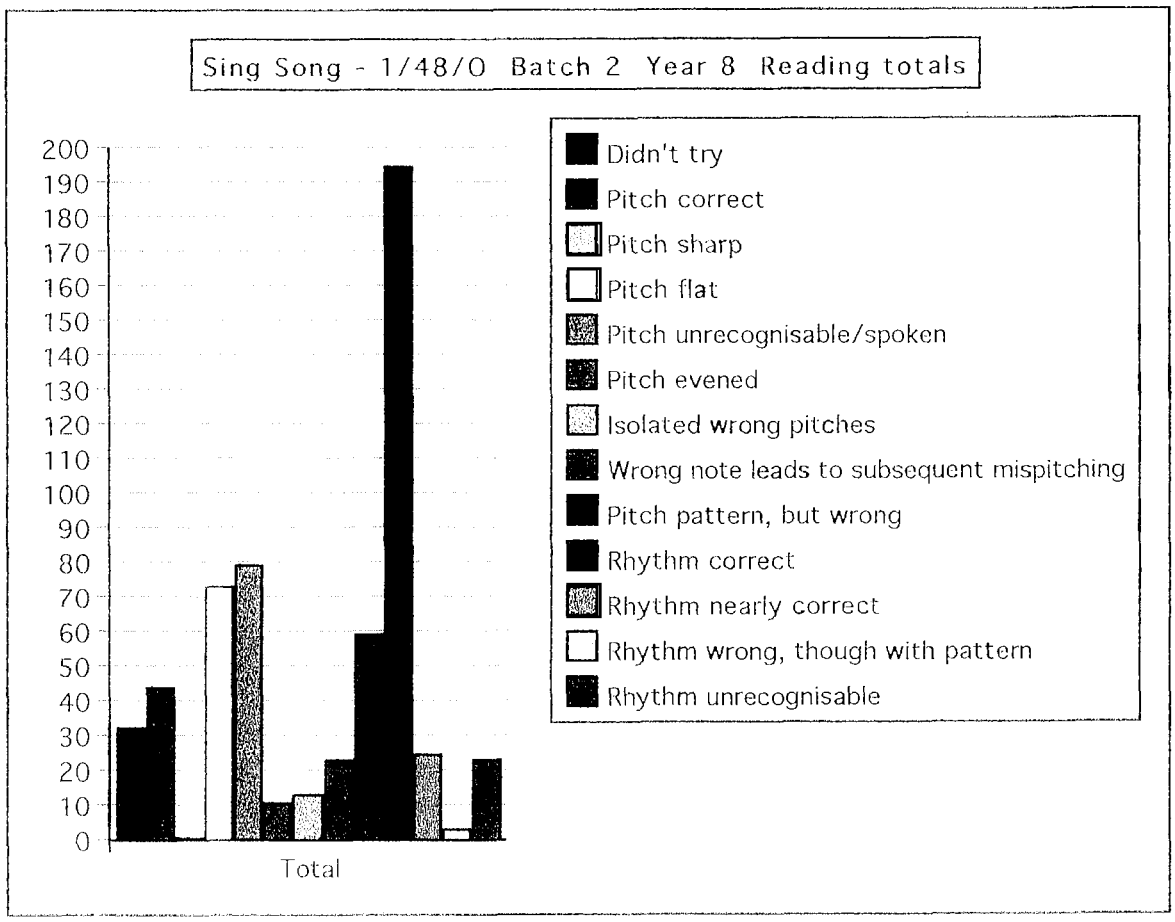
**Description:**

The totals are included here in table 18 mainly for the sake of completeness in presenting the data.

**Table 18 - Sing Song 1/48/O Batch 2 Year 8 Totals n = 43**

| | Didn't try | Pitch correct | Pitch sharp | Pitch flat | Pitch unrecognisable/ spoken | Pitch evened | Isolated wrong pitches |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 32 | 44 | 1 | 73 | 79 | 11 | 13 |

| Wrong note leads to subsequent mispitching | Pitch pattern, but wrong | Rhythm correct | Rhythm nearly correct | Rhythm wrong, though with pattern | Rhythm unrecognisable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23 | 59 | 195 | 25 | 3 | 23 |



**Comments:**

There is no additional comment to be made with respect to these totals.

**Combined Batches 1 and 2**

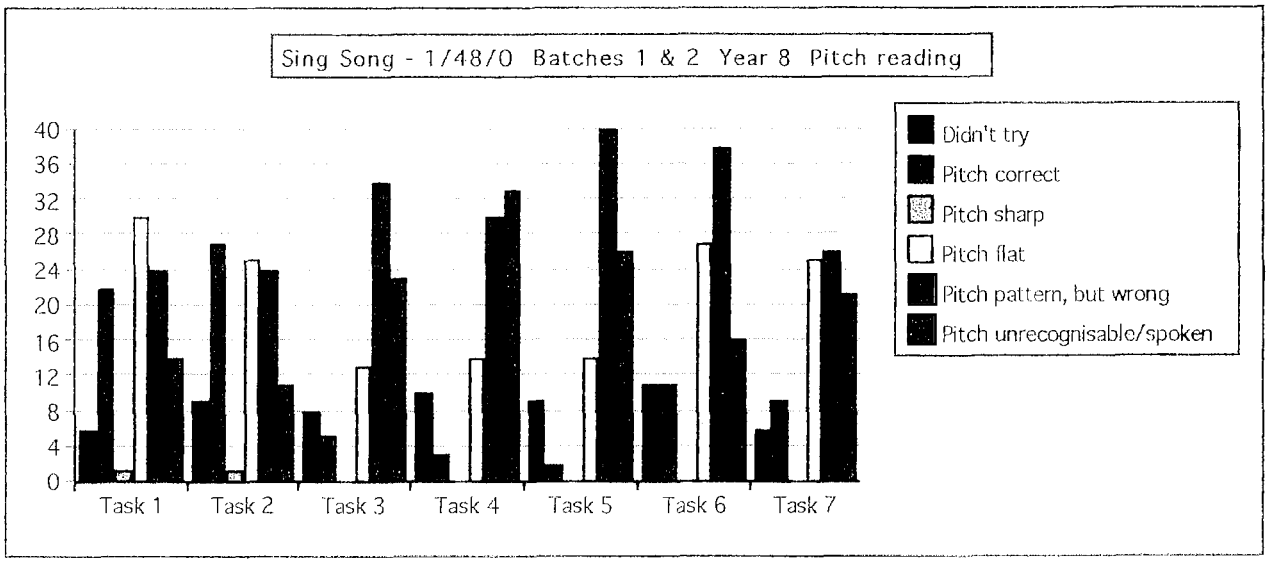
**Pitch Characteristics of Sing Song 1/48/O Combined Batches 1 & 2 Year**

**Description:**

For Table 19, the three factors included in batch 2, but not batch 1 have been omitted. Some, but not all of the children in those factors also registered in other factors.

**Table 19 - Sing Song 1/48/O Combined Batches 1 & 2 Year 8 Pitch reading n = 85**

| | Didn't try | Pitch correct | Pitch sharp | Pitch flat | Pitch pattern, but wrong | Pitch unrecognisable/spoken |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Task 1 | 6 | 22 | 1 | 30 | 24 | 14 |
| Task 2 | 9 | 27 | 1 | 25 | 24 | 11 |
| Task 3 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 13 | 34 | 23 |
| Task 4 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 14 | 30 | 33 |
| Task 5 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 40 | 26 |
| Task 6 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 27 | 38 | 16 |
| Task 7 | 6 | 9 | 0 | 25 | 26 | 21 |



**Comments:**

The predominance of *Pitch pattern, but wrong* is clear, as is the amount of *Pitch flat*. When one compares this table with the equivalent for year 4, table 7, the overall relationships of factors throughout the tasks is similar, but the performances of year 8 children are much superior to those of Year 4. A comparison of this difference with that registered in the NEMP results raises the question as to whether the categories used in the NEMP assessments give a fair and accurate picture of the factors that go to make up what the tasks purport to assess.

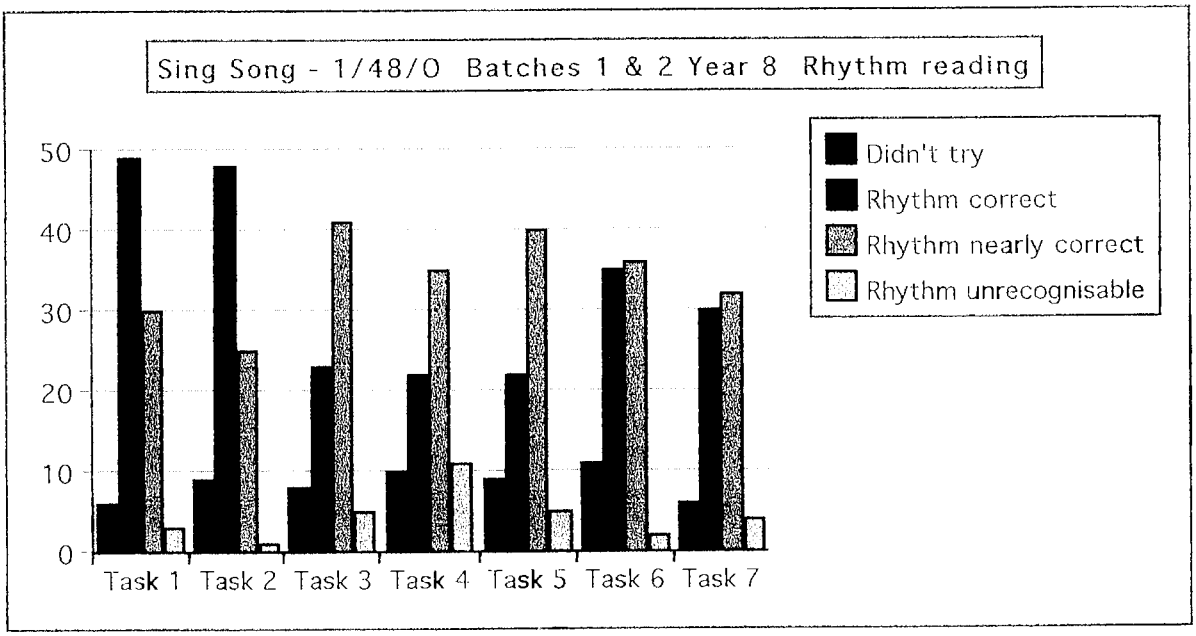
## Pitch Characteristics of Sing Song 1/48/O Combined Batches 1 & 2 Year 8

**Description:**

The category *Rhythm wrong, though with pattern* is omitted from the combined, table 20. The big difference in *Rhythm correct* between batches 1 and 2 must be noted.

**Table 20 -Sing Song 1/48/O Combined Batches 1 & 2 Year 8 Rhythm reading n = 85**

| | Didn't try | Rhythm correct | Rhythm nearly correct | Rhythm unrecognisable |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Task 1 | 6 | 49 | 30 | 3 |
| Task 2 | 9 | 48 | 25 | 1 |
| Task 3 | 8 | 23 | 41 | 5 |
| Task 4 | 10 | 22 | 35 | 11 |
| Task 5 | 9 | 22 | 40 | 5 |
| Task 6 | 11 | 35 | 36 | 2 |
| Task 7 | 6 | 30 | 32 | 4 |




**Comment:**

Table 20 speaks for itself in presenting a strongly positive result in performance of the rhythm factor. The advance on year 4 results (table 8) is less striking, however, except for the "difficult" tasks 4, 5 and 7, which by year 8 register a much higher proportion of *Rhythm correct*, and lower numbers of *Didn't try* and *Rhythm unrecognisable*,

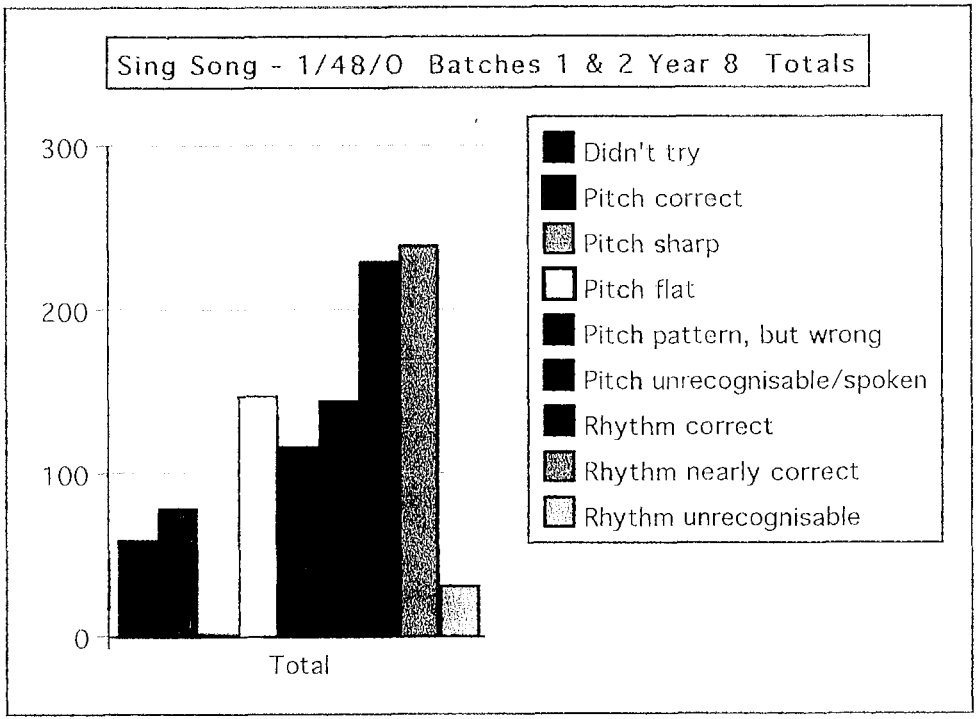
## Pitch & Rhythm Characteristics of Sing Song 1/48/O Combined Batches 1 & 2 Year 8 Totals

**Description:**

Table 21 offers a useful overall picture, particularly when compared with the year 4 table 9.

**Table 21 - Sing Song 1/48/O Combined Batches 1 & 2 Year 8 Totals n = 85**

| | Didn't try | Pitch correct | Pitch sharp | Pitch flat | Pitch pattern, but wrong | Pitch unrecognisable /spoken | Rhythm correct | Rhythm nearly correct | Rhythm unrecog-nisable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 59 | 79 | 2 | 148 | 116 | 144 | 229 | 239 | 31 |




**Comments:**

The striking superiority of performance in rhythm, compared with pitch reading is clear from table 21.