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The influence of musical education on childhood

A qualitative research of the orientating childhood experiences of adolescents attending the last year of Music High Schools in Tuscany

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Introduction

The state of the art highlights the interest about the approach to music during childhood and the influence of musical inputs in cognitive, linguistic, communicative, artistic, care development.

At the same time, the literature underlines the emotional benefits and socializing power of music inside and outside school and in the formation of the adolescent's identity and character.

Recent national reforms increase the diffusion of music in the Secondary School of Second degree.

Data MIUR:

- 10 Music High Schools in Toscana
- Increase of 0,8 % in students enrolled in Music High Schools in the last years in Italy.



Aims

- To set up and run a Literature Review about national studies with a look at the international ones related to the impact of musical experiences in the childhood.
- Investigate the influence of musical experiences during childhood in the following choice of Music High School in Tuscany and/or music as a future job.

Method

Interpretative research on a case study.

Participants: a sample of 85 students from last year of musical classes (in Leghorn, Lucca and Massa) and comparison different curriculum (Human Sciences in Leghorn, Artistic in Lucca and Carrara) High School.

Tools used: semi-structured interviews, questionnaires.

Procedure: audio-recording, transcription and analysis of semi-structured narrative interviews and analysis of the questionnaires, aimed at a sample-class and a comparative-class adolescents, for each of the three high schools, to detect the experiences of formal and informal orientation in childhood memory.



Preliminary Results

The research highlights the influence of the socio-cultural, family, school and extracurricular context since childhood on training and orientation towards music in the selected adolescents' sample.

Discussion and future investigation

- Limited Tuscany sample
- Linking educational contexts on the topic.

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