



ADVANCING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN SINGING

Testing musical abilities of Estonian preschool children: Some preliminary results

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AIRS in Estonia

- Pilot study (2010) - Marju Raju (Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre), 26 participants
- Main study (2012) - Laura Välja (Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre), 43 participants





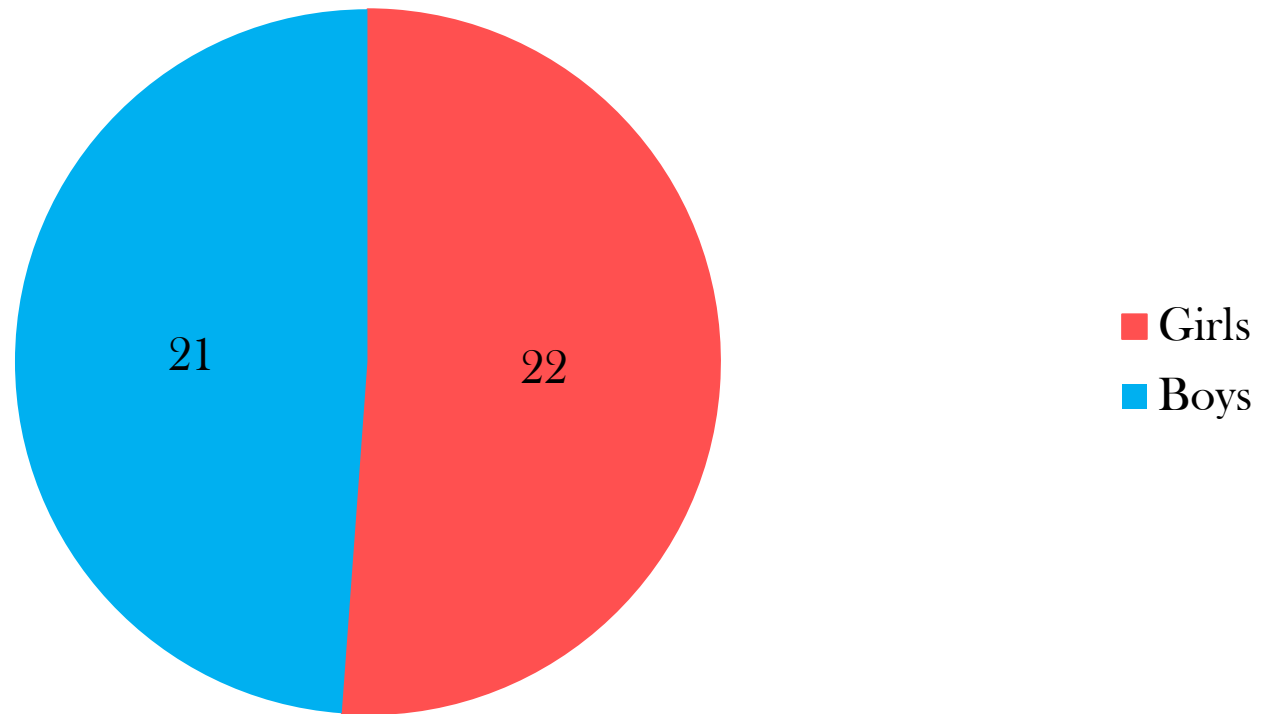
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Item 5	Sing favorite song	Obtain information about favorite songs and accuracy and consistency of its production; determine music preferences and consistency of preference
Item 8	Free composition to choice of picture	Measure song creativity and compare with results of Stadler Elmer, who also used pictures; pictures constrain themes but inspire lyrics



Participants

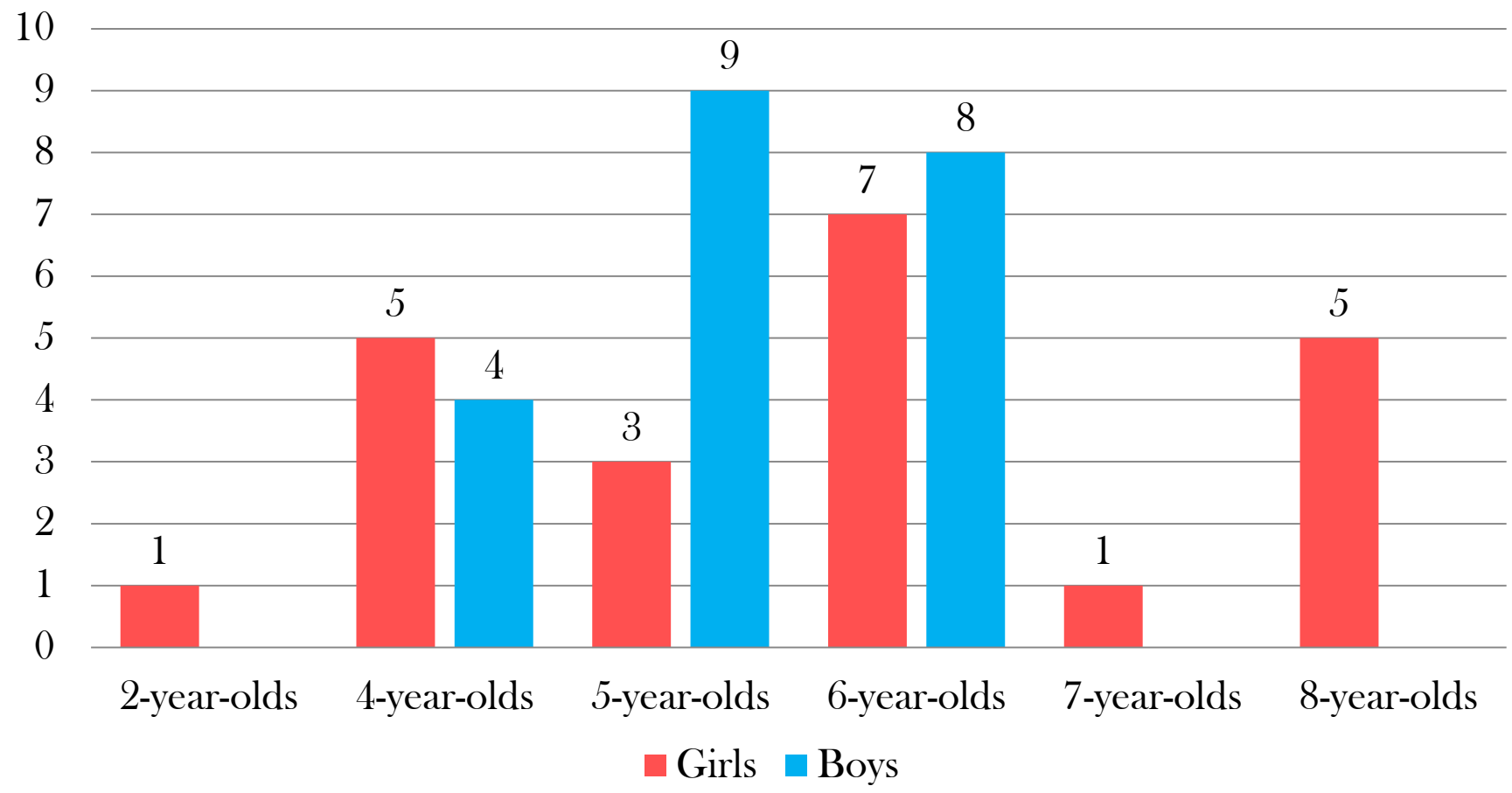
Sex





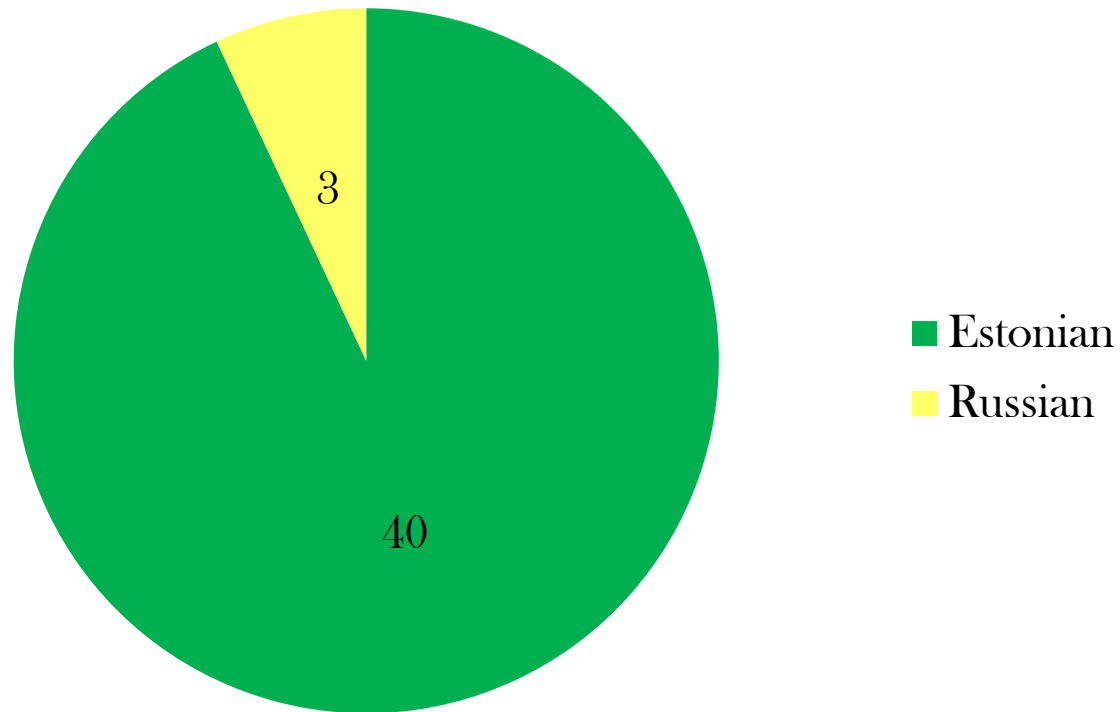
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Age



Participants

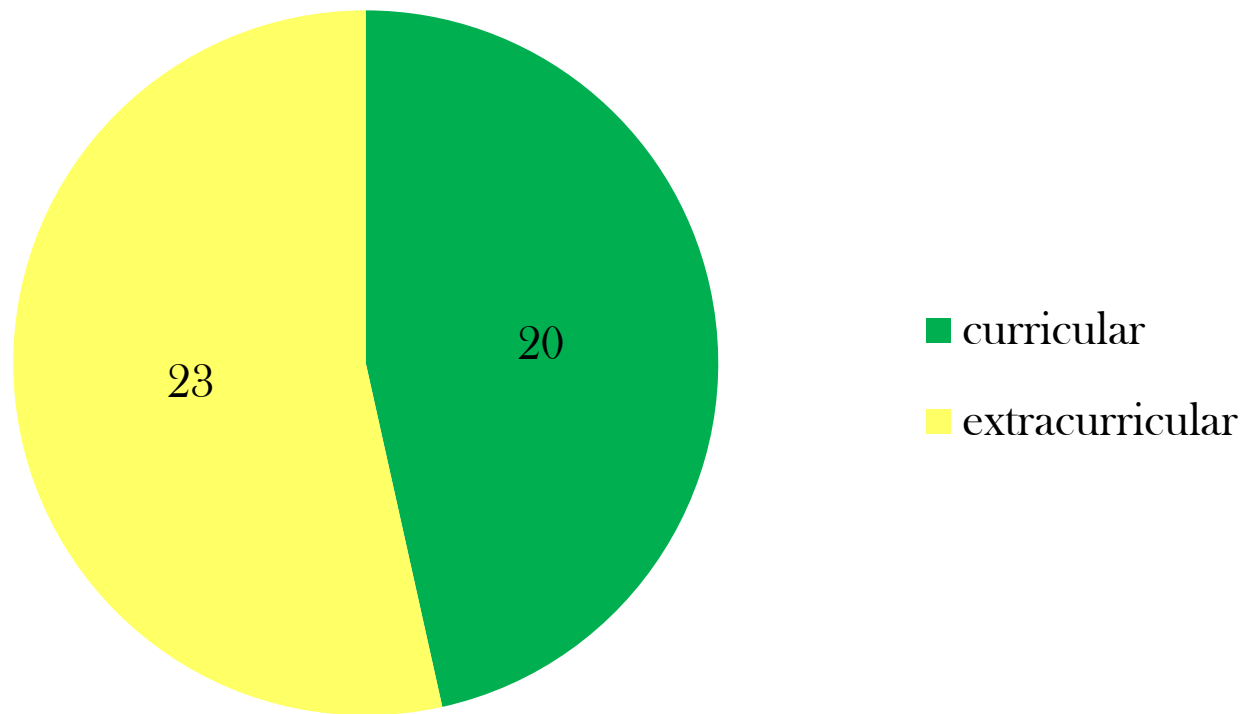
Native language





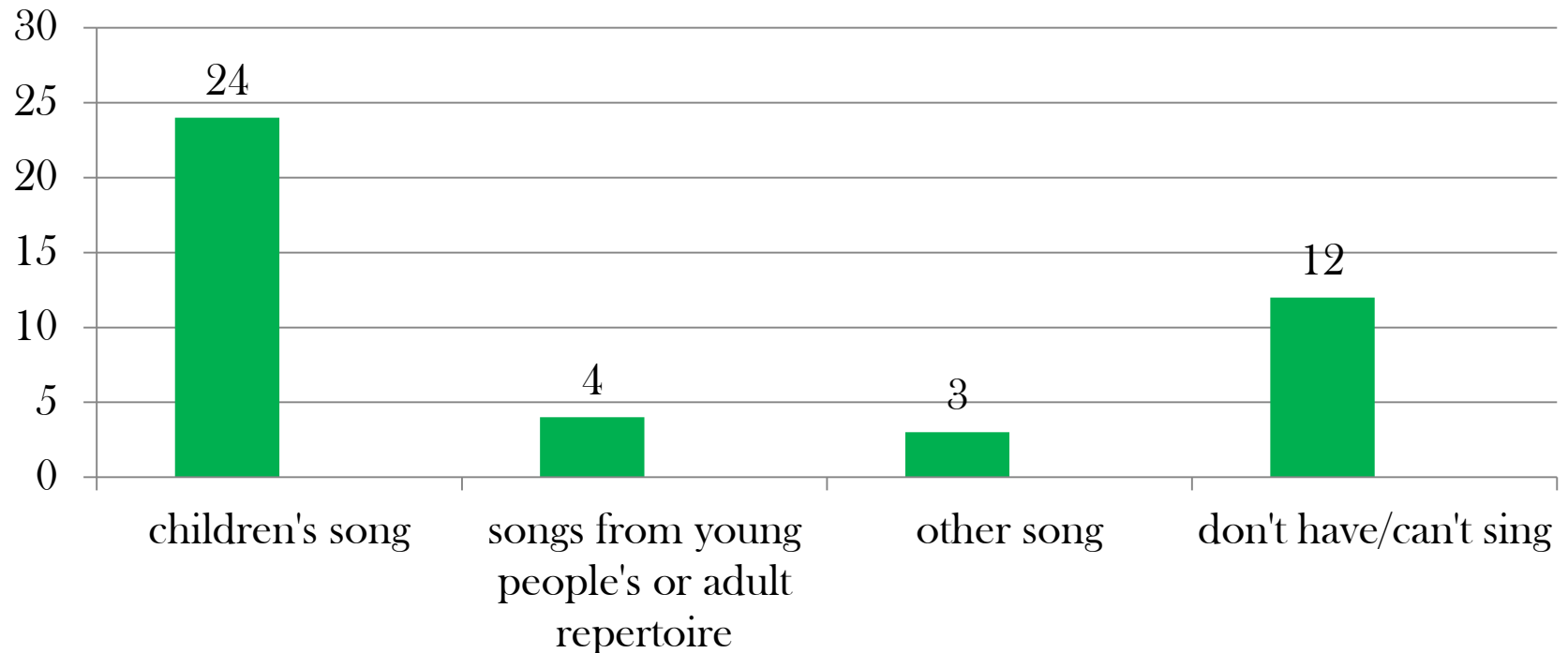
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Musical activities



AIRS Test Battery - Item 5

Singing favorite song

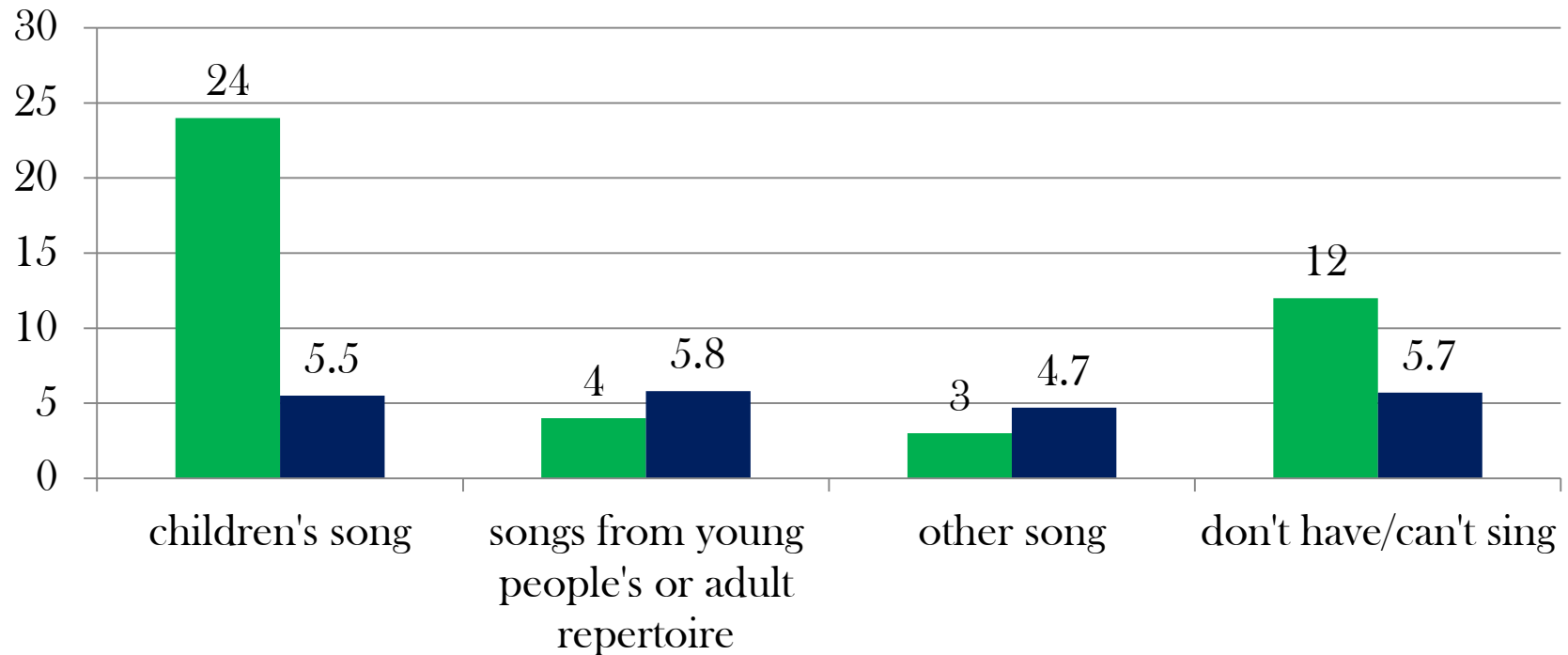


■ number of participants



AIRS Test Battery - Item 5

Singing favorite song



■ number of participants ■ average age



AIRS Test Battery - Item 5

Singing favorite song - results

- children's favorite songs mostly include those from the common repertory in contemporary Estonia
- most kids are able to perform one or two verses and chorus of their favorite song
- children's musical preferences are related to their current activities in kindergarten or school

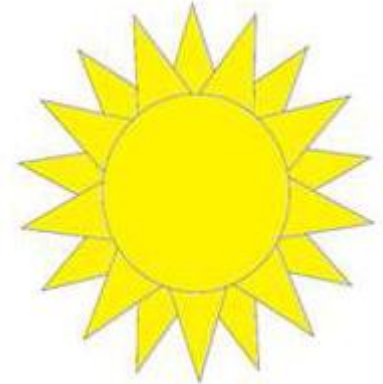
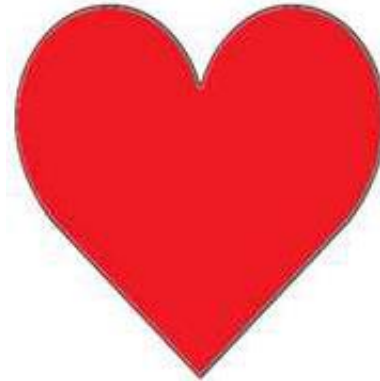
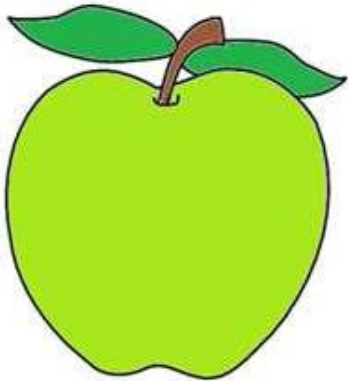




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AIRS Test Battery - Item 8

Free composition to choice of picture

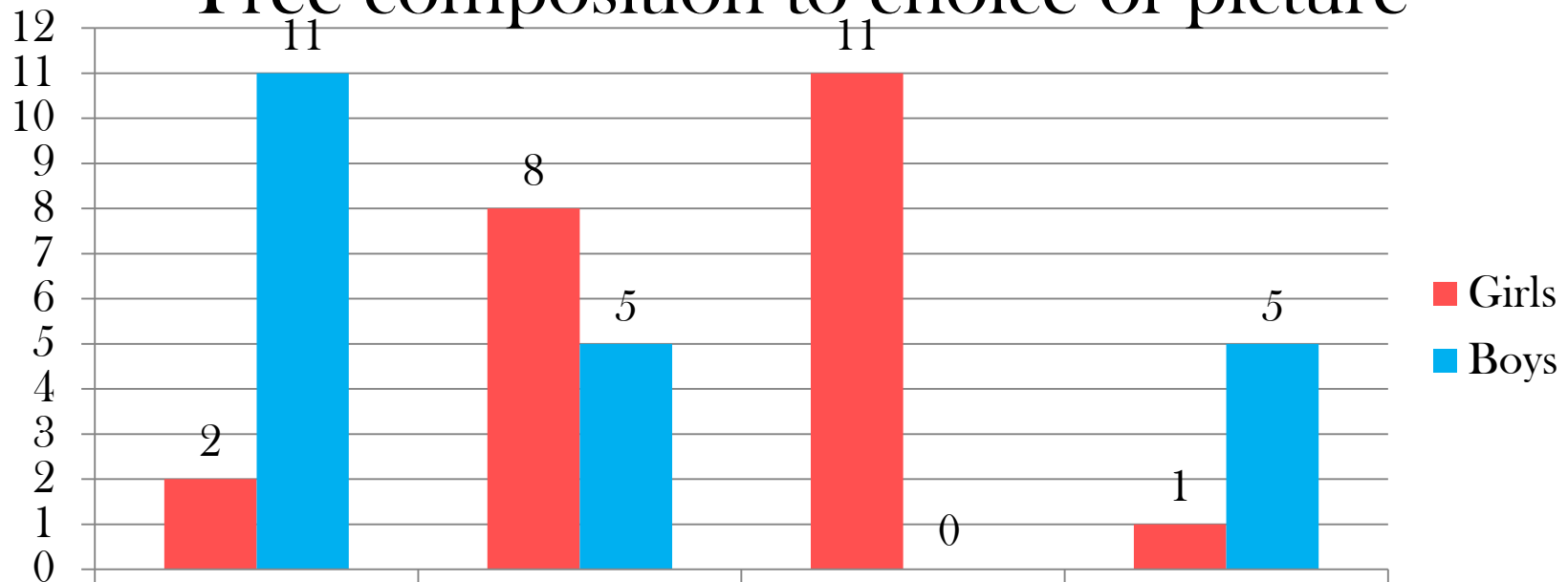


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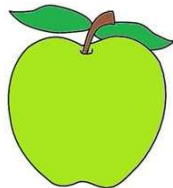
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AIRS Test Battery - Item 8

Free composition to choice of picture



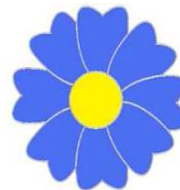
13 children



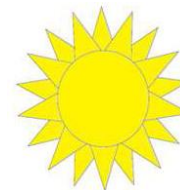
13 children



11 children



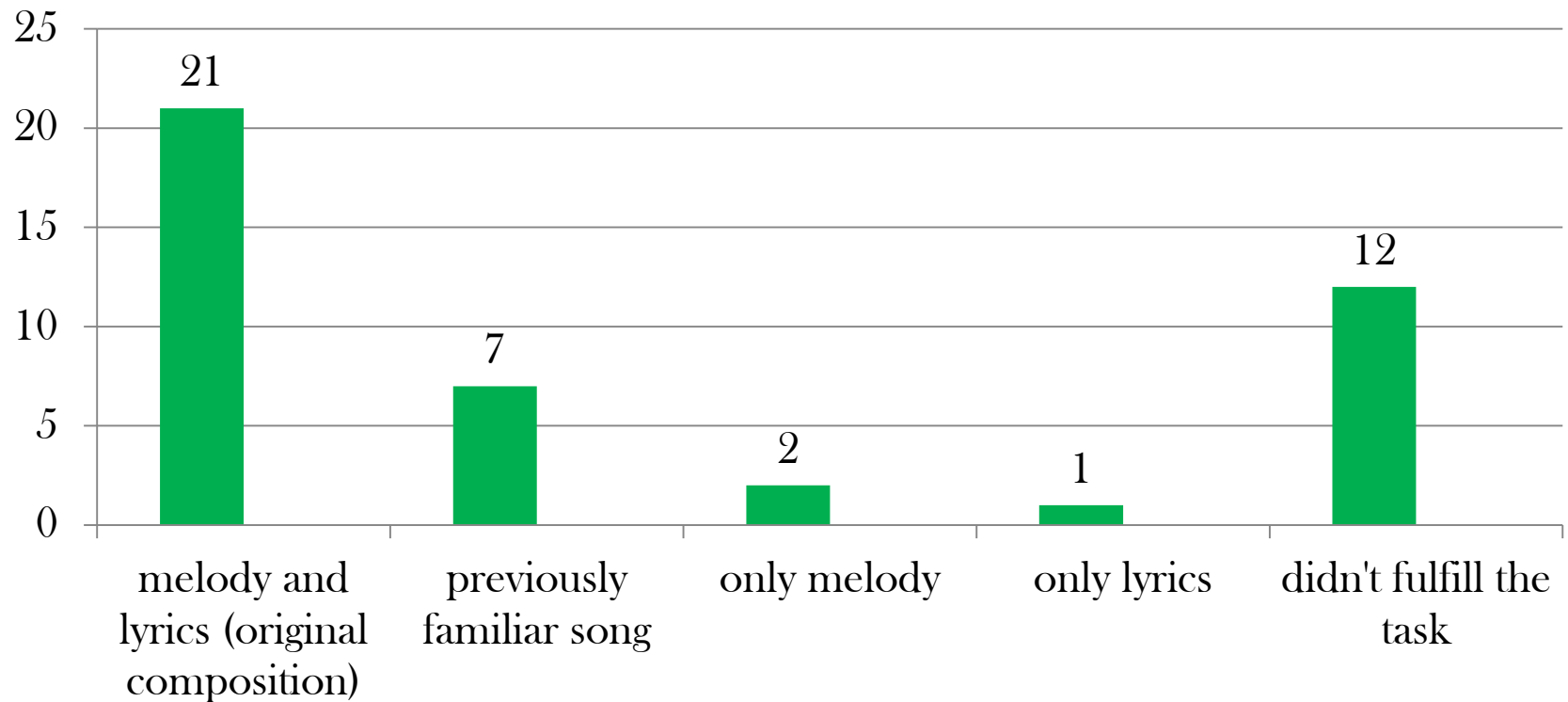
6 children



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AIRS Test Battery - Item 8

Free composition to choice of picture



■ number of participants

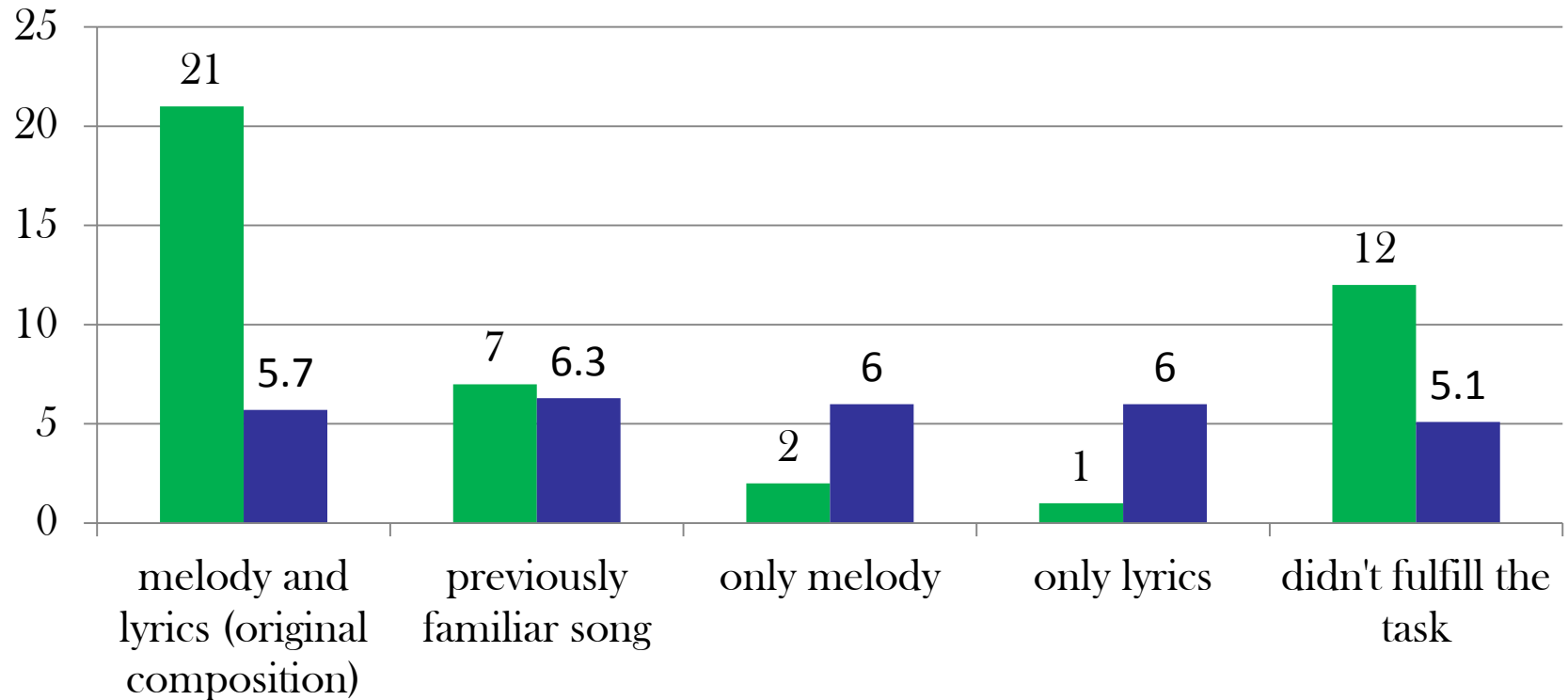


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AIRS Test Battery - Item 8

Free composition to choice of picture



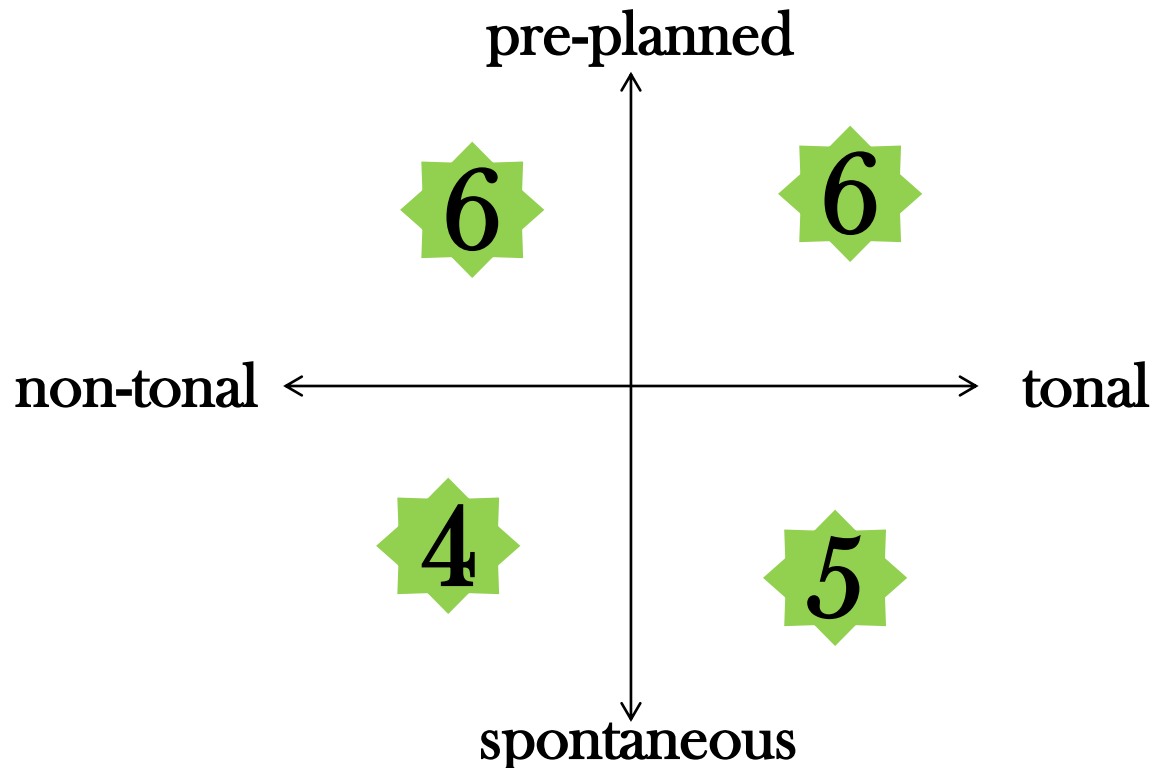
■ number of participants ■ average age



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AIRS Test Battery - Item 8

Free composition to choice of picture



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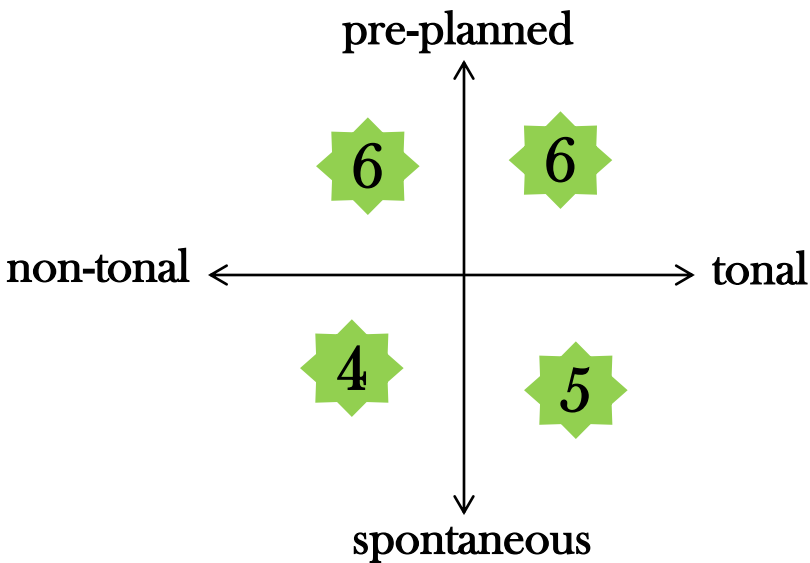
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AIRS Test Battery - Item 8

Free composition to choice of picture



Category	No. of participants	Avg age	Extracurricular musical activities
Pre-planned and tonal	6	6	3
Spontaneous and tonal	5	4,8	3
Spontaneous and non-tonal	4	4,5	4
Pre-planned and non-tonal	6	6	2





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AIRS Test Battery

Results

	Item	No. of successful performances *
2	Determine vocal range	40
3	Minor third call-back	43
4	Sing back „Brother John“	42
5	Sing favorite song	31
6	Sing back interval, triad, scale	42
7	Improvise ending of a song	38
8	Free composition to choice of picture	30
9	Sing back unfamiliar song „We Are One“	34
10	Sing „Brother John“ from recent memory	41

* a performance was considered successful, if the participant understood the task and provided some musical material



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AIRS Test Battery - Item 8

Free composition to choice of picture

- smallest number of successful performances in the main study
- correlation between participant's age and solving the task is weak
 - children are more focused on creating lyrics than melody
- distribution of the performances in a 2D space (spontaneity vs compliance to the tonal canon) is roughly even





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Thank you for your attention!



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