

Playing stimuli

Musical instruments are an essential part of the musical stimulation environment of the home. Most often they indicated either active music playing or at least an interest in music. The results showed both the amount and the type of instrument. (Table 5)

TABLE 5: The type of musical instruments in the childhood home (N=590)

Type of instrument	f	%
piano	241	31
guitar	131	17
school or toy instruments	125	16
harmonium/ electric organ	97	13
strings (violin, cello etc.)	69	9
accordion	59	8
wind instruments (clarinet, trumpet etc.)	50	6
Total	772	100

The piano was overwhelmingly the most common of all musical instruments. If we combine this figure with harmoniums and electric organs, over a half of respondents could at least in theory begin as a child to practise a playing skill. In a half of childhood homes there were 1-2 music instruments, in a quarter of them there was 3-9 instruments. A quarter of the homes were quite without instruments.

The playing interest of childhood homes was examined also on the grounds of the number of family members who played instruments (Tables 6 and 7).

TABLE 6: The number of persons who played in student teachers' childhood homes (N=590)

Number of persons	f	%
3-7	18	3
2-3 (of which the third is the respondent)	122	21
1-2 (of which the second is the respondent)	224	38
1 (only the respondent him/herself)	47	8
0	24	4
no instrument at home	155	26
homes total	590	100

The results proved that 70 percent of student teachers' families had played instruments as a hobby. However, the amount of playing could not to be estimated from the answers. Some of the respondents had modified their responses by rejecting the words "but rarely".

The results about parents' playing interests proved that both of the parents played at home rather rarely (Table 7). Fathers participated distinctly more often in playing interests, contrary to the case of singing with their children (see Table 4). This research conforms to earlier Finnish research (Jokinen 1998, 473-478).