

Researching the first year of the National Singing Programme in England:

Baseline data and an initial impact evaluation

- children's behaviours and attitudes
- 'Vocal Force' workforce development

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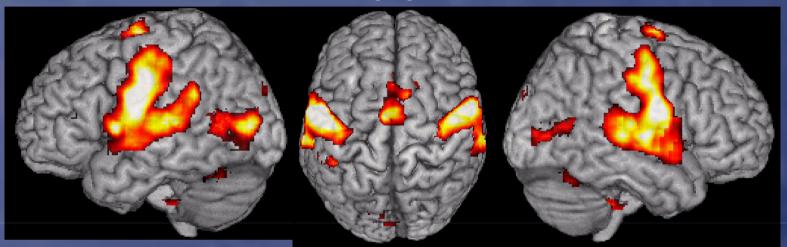




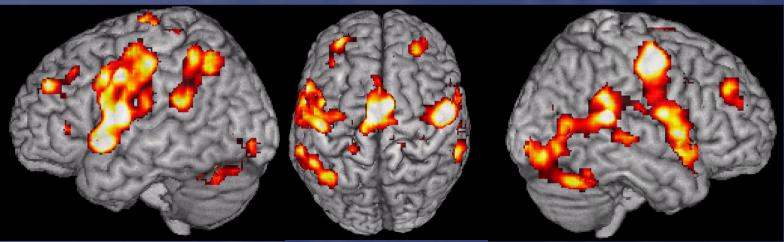
Neurological basis for singing

• singing is multi-sited neurologically and draws on many different areas of the brain, linking visual, motor, emotional, sound and language-type processing

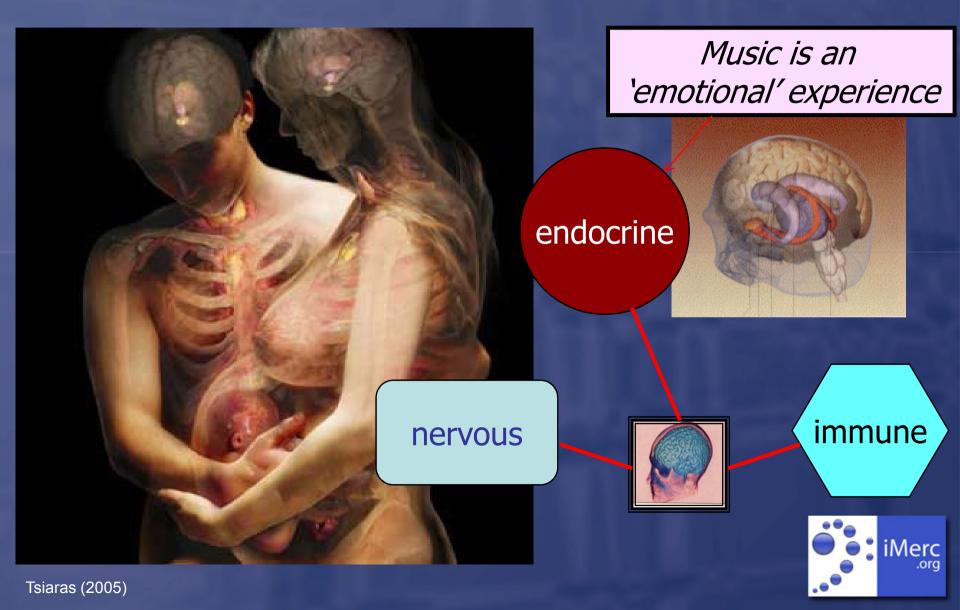
actual singing



imagined singing



Neuropsychobiological design and music: the 'bodymind' (Pert, 1986; Thurman & Welch, 2000; Welch, 2005)

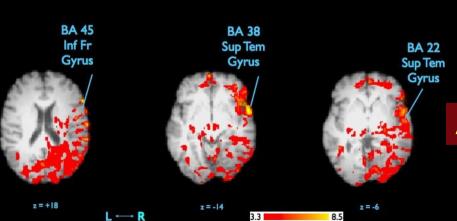


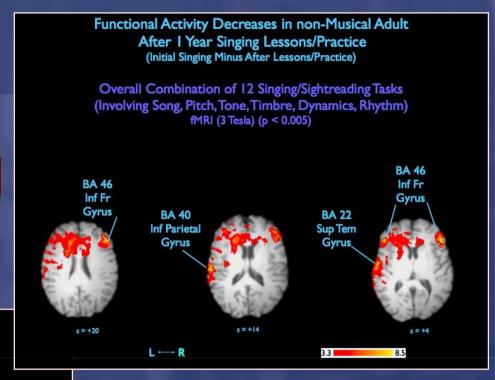
A neurological perspective: Activity changes brain function

Prior to singing lessons

Functional Activity Increases in non-Musical Adult After I Year Singing Lessons/Practice (After Lessons Minus Initial Singing)

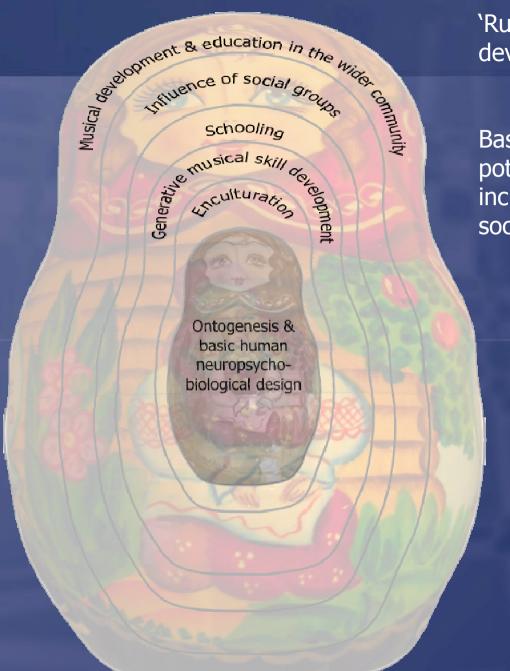
Overall Combination of 12 Singing/Sightreading Tasks (Involving Song, Pitch, Tone, Timbre, Dynamics, Rhythm) fMRI (3 Tesla) (p < 0.005)





After one year of singing lessons





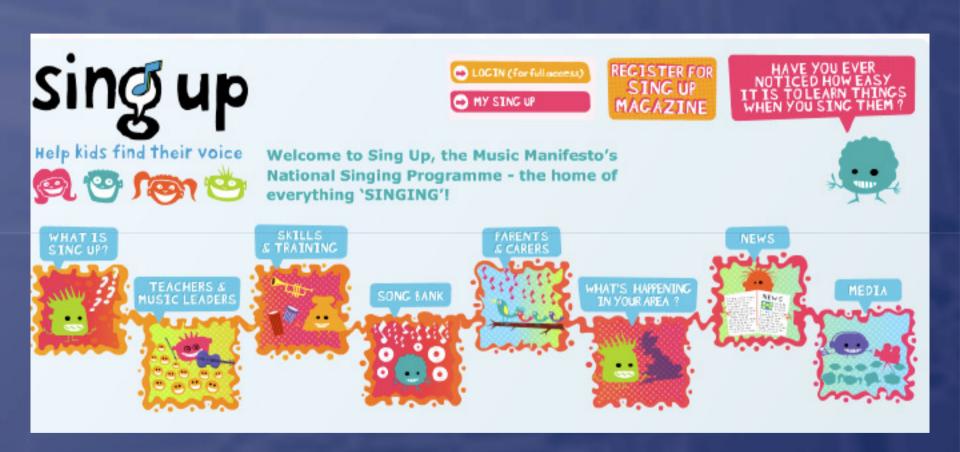
'Russian Dolls' model of musical development

Basic human design and potential for musical behaviours, including singing, are shaped in social and cultural contexts



Prior experience - child's musical biography - can be positive and/or negative (linked to bodymind and tacet learning) Memory structures and knowledge acquisition pathways a cognitive model of tacit knowledge (Sternberg et al. 2000: and adapted from Eraut, 2004) Personal Received Experience Knowledge Procedural **Episodic** Semantic Memory Memory Memory Explicit verbal knowledge, e.g. through teaching Individual Behaviour Self-efficacy Self-esteem Context specific action: Musical identity Personally experienced becomes other-than-+ve/-ve events conscious

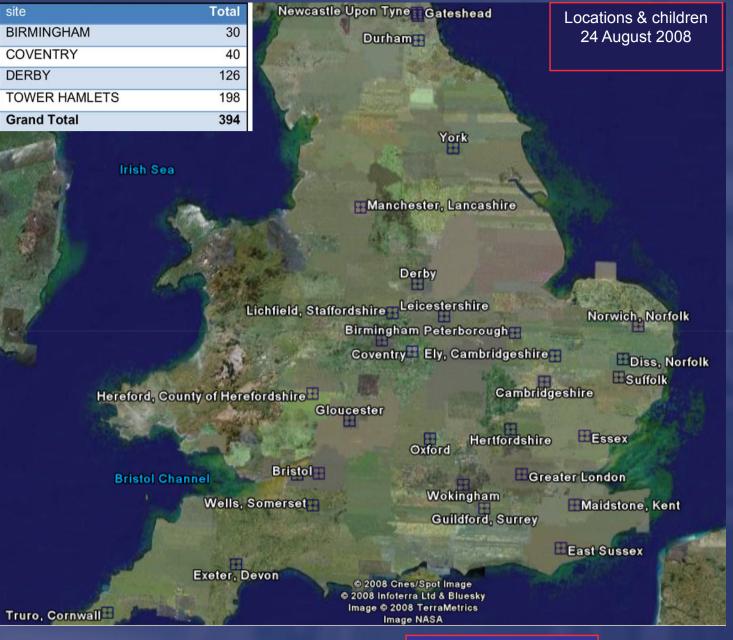
National Singing Programme http://www.singup.org/



£40m (€60m) 2007-2011 Approx 3.3 million children aged 5 to 10 years In 17,000 plus Primary schools in England



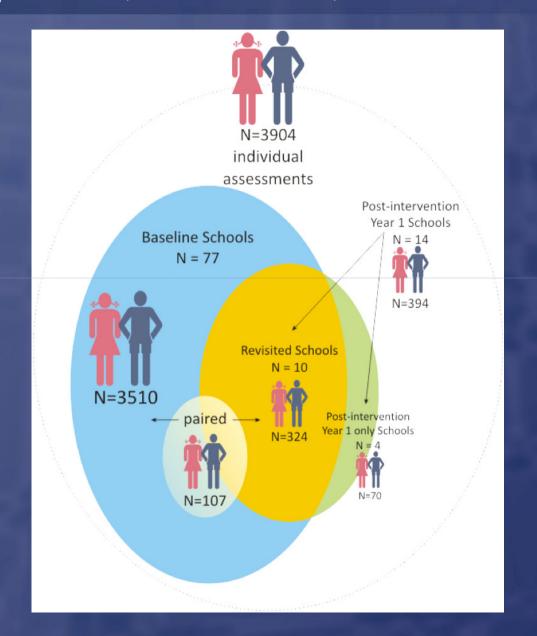
Post-intervention Schools Baseline



Research Sites	Total
BIRMINGHAM	38
BRISTOL	46
CAMBRIDGE	182
CATHEDRAL	18
CATHEDRAL2	36
COVENTRY	44
DERBY	151
NORFOLK	57
DURHAM	45
EALING	53
ELY	30
ESSEX	340
FULHAM	43
GATESHEAD	325
GLOUCESTER	131
HAMMERSMITH AND	
FULHAM	42
HARINGEY	50
HEREFORD	17
HERTFORDSHIRE	18
KENT	58
LAMBETH	50
LEICESTERSHIRE	9
LICHFIELD	46
MANCHESTER	472
NEWCASTLE	211
NORWICH	87
OXFORD	45
PETERBOROUGH	97
SOMERSET	40
SUFFOLK	57
TOWER HAMLETS	371
TRURO	35
WELLS	38
YORK	110
YORKSHIRE	118
Grand Total	3510
	.org

81 schools @ 24 Aug 2008 3762 pupils, 3904 assessments

Participants, schools, assessments



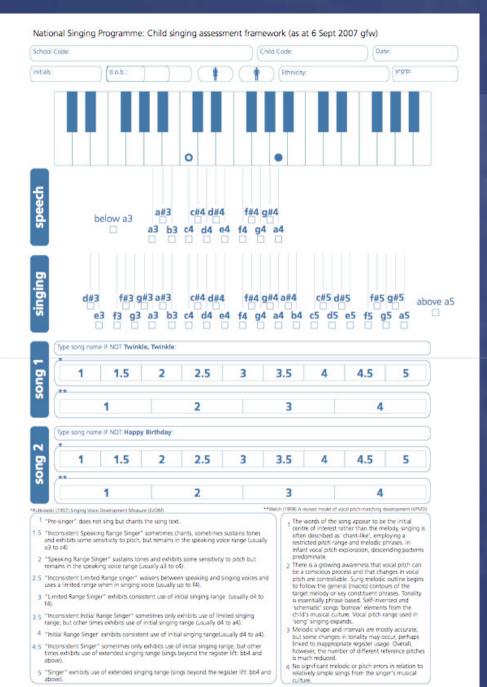


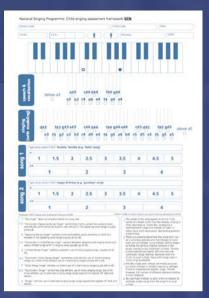
Baseline data



Children's speaking and singing behaviours







Research Protocol:

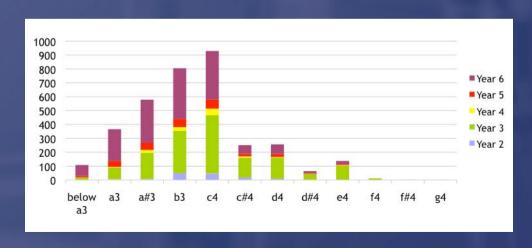
Children's speaking and singing development

(both mainstream and special schools)



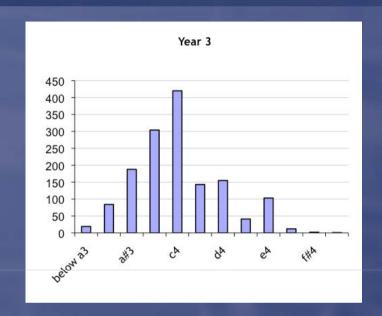
Children's spoken pitch centre (1)

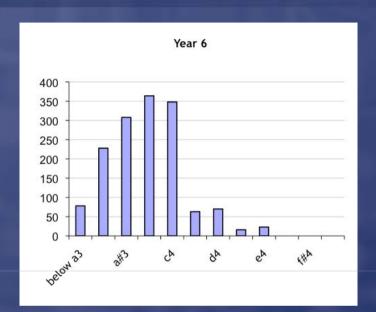
Speech Pitch Centre							
pitch	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6		
below a3	0	19	0	11	78		
a3	6	84	4	44	228		
a#3	7	188	21	54	308		
b3	50	304	27	60	364		
c4	48	420	46	67	348		
c#4	18	143	9	18	63		
d4	9	155	2	21	70		
d#4	4	41	1	2	16		
e4	3	103	1	7	23		
f4	0	12	0	0	0		
f#4	0	2	0	0	0		
g4	0	1	0	0	0		



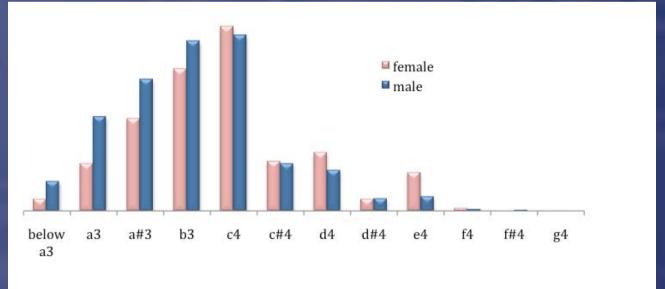


Children's spoken pitch centre (2)





age



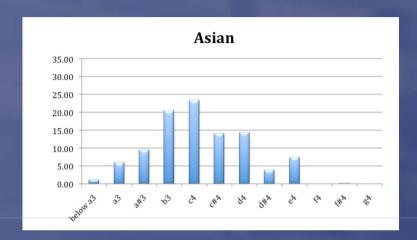
Baseline n=3510

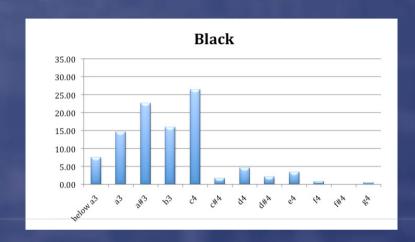
sex

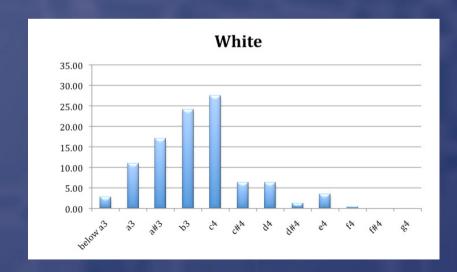


Children's spoken pitch centre (3)



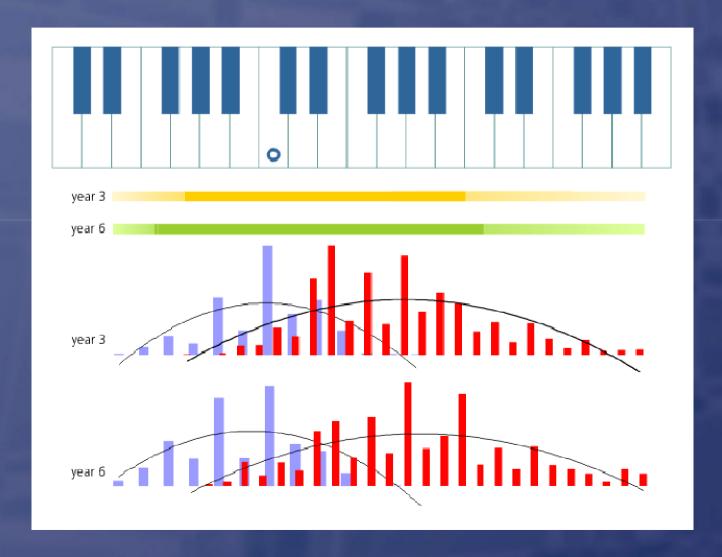








Comfortable singing ranges (baseline) (extremes and common pitches by year group)



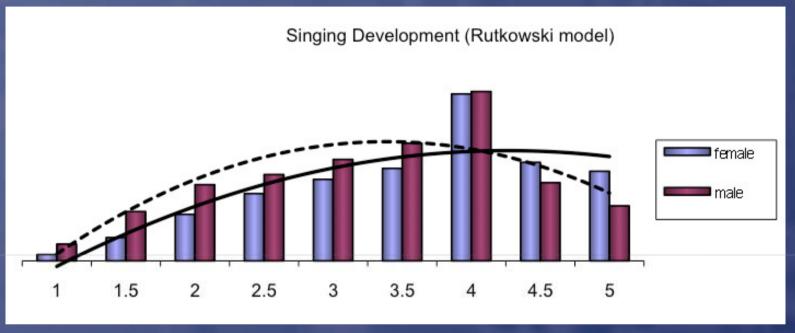
Yr 3 N =1472 Yr 6 N = 1498

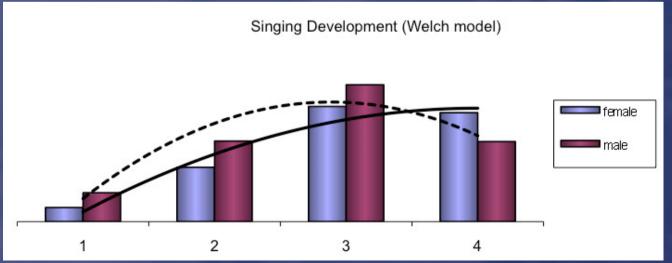
Key:
Colours in lower graphs indicate distributions of upper and lower pitches for each age group

Darker horizontal bars in upper figure indicate 75% of total number of participants for each age group



Singing development by age

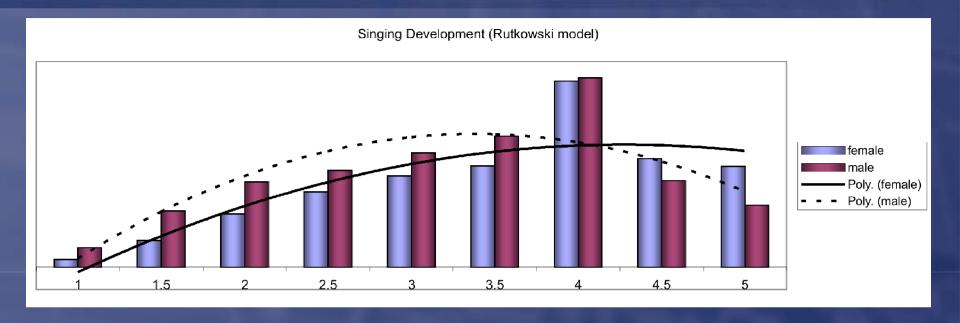


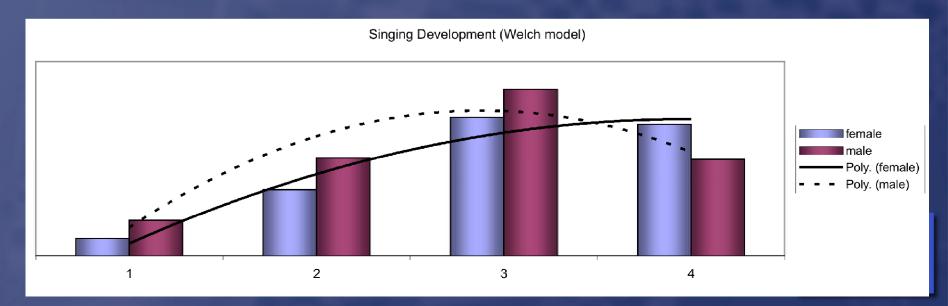


Singing competency increases with age

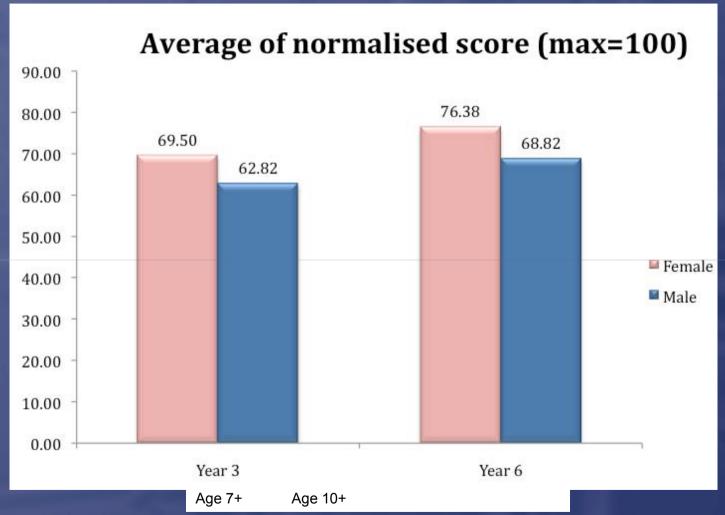


Females tend to be more developed singers





Ratings of singing behaviour development (age & sex)

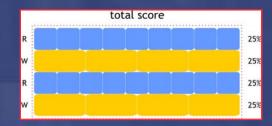






				population (%)					% of total is
	school	score	Other	Asian	Black	Chinese	Mixed	White	FEMALE
	CATHEDRAL	99.44	0.00	0.00	5.56	0.00	0.00	94.44	0.00
	YORKSHIRE	83.87	0.00	1.54	0.00	0.00	4.62	93.85	56.92
	ESSEX	83.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	35.42
	FULHAM	83.37	0.00	20.93	27.91	0.00	6.98	44.19	48.84
	YORK	83.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.33	96.67	43.33
	CAMBRIDGE	83.13	2.08	27.08	4.17	0.00	0.00	66.67	60.42
15	CAMBRIDGE	81.96	0.00	1.89	1.89	1.89	3.77	90.57	47.17
top 1	YORKSHIRE	80.61	0.00	3.77	0.00	0.00	7.55	88.68	43.40
¥	SOMERSET	80.38	0.00	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	97.50	47.50
	SUFFOLK	80.33	0.00	1.75	1.75	0.00	0.00	96.49	36.84
	NEWCASTLE	78.70	0.00	9.26	1.85	0.00	0.00	88.89	46.30
	ESSEX	78.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	52.94
	TOWER HAMLETS	78.07	4.17	58.33	6.25	4.17	0.00	27.08	56.25
	DISS	77.89	0.00	0.00	3.51	0.00	3.51	92.98	57.89
	MANCHESTER	77.24	0.00	5.13	2.56	0.00	7.69	84.62	46.15

	MANCHESTER	77.24	0.00	5.13	2.56	0.00	7.69	84.62	46.15
	NEWCASTLE	59.60	2.00	42.00	36.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	44.00
	DERBY	58.86	0.00	75.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.24	42.42
	MANCHESTER	58.39	0.00	5.45	5.45	1.82	0.00	87.27	47.27
	ESSEX	58.36	0.00	0.00	4.44	0.00	2.22	93.33	55.56
	YORK	57.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	39.58
	HEREFORD	56.62	5.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	94.12	52.94
15	TOWER HAMLETS	55.88	0.00	97.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.27	43.18
	ESSEX	55.08	0.00	4.08	0.00	2.04	0.00	93.88	65.31
bottom	NEWCASTLE	54.04	0.00	1.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	98.36	45.90
	LEICESTERSHIRE	54.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	66.67
	TOWER HAMLETS	54.02	0.00	95.24	4.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.38
	MANCHESTER	53.93	1.56	56.25	20.31	3.13	3.13	15.63	45.31
	DERBY	53.87	1.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	98.36	50.82
	GATESHEAD	49.63	0.00	0.00	5.88	0.00	0.00	94.12	35.29
	HERTFORDSHIRE	38.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.56	94.44	50.00



School differences

(top & bottom quartiles)

Baseline 77 schools



Key: score of 100% = all pupils tested had achieved maximum development ratings on each song item (x2) on each scale (x2). Table shows contrasts between schools in their children's scores.

Impact evidence: Year 1



'Singing Playgrounds'

- 'Singing Playgrounds' is an educational outreach programme designed to develop children's musicianship through singing games
- Provided by Ex Cathedra, one of the UK's leading choir and Early Music ensembles. Expert adult singers visit school playgrounds and work with older children - called 'Song Leaders' - who lead their peers in singing games.
- 'Through the use of weekly set tasks, the Song Leaders are encouraged to develop and evaluate their own activities. Equipped with clipboards and stickers to hand out to the younger children for enthusiastic participation in "Jump Jim Joe" and other popular playground hits, the song leaders...are seen as role models throughout the school and are chosen for their enthusiasm.'

http://www.singup.org/teachers_and_music_leaders/recipes_for_success/Singing_Playgrounds.php (retrieved 18 August 2008)

Individual Assessments

	Baseline Phase	Post- Intervention Phase	Grand Total
Schools visited twice (10)	495	324 🛨	819
Schools visited during baseline phase only (67)	3015	-	3015
Schools visited during post-intervention phase only (4)	-	70	70
Grand Total (81)	3510	394	3904

★Of the n=324 assessments in 10 'Singing Playgrounds' schools, n=107 were identical children

Baseline = 77 schools

Post-intervention = 14 schools, 10 of which were in baseline, but not all the same classes



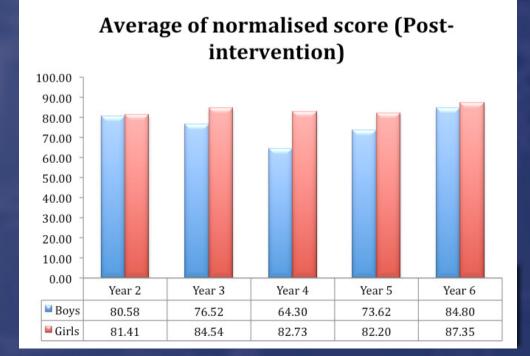
Average of normalised score (Baseline) 100.00 90.00 80.00 70.00 60.00 50.00 40.00 30.00 20.00 10.00 0.00 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6 ■ Bovs 59.85 62.84 67.52 70.90 68.96 Girls 63.86 69.53 83.26 73.75 76.46

In both phases of assessment, there are trends for:

- Older children to be rated more highly than younger children
- Girls to be rated more highly than boys

(n=3510)

(n=394)



Evidence of impact (1): song competency

- ❖ Normalised mean singing competency scores (Rutkowski & Welch combined ratings) for all pupils were computed for the baseline (n=3510) and postintervention periods (n=394) in Year 1
- Statistically significant difference between the two phases [t(539)=11.2, p<.0005]</p>
- ❖ The mean scores for the postintervention assessments (M=79.714, SD=16.781) were significantly <u>higher</u> than for the baseline (M=69.425, SD=20.825) for both boys and girls

	Boys	Girls
Baseline phase (all Year-groups)	66.18	73.05
n=3510		
Year 2	59.85	63.86
Year 3	62.84	69.53
Year 4	67.52	83.26
Year 5	70.90	73.75
Year 6	68.96	76.46
Post-intervention phase (all	75.18	83.45
Year-groups) n=394		
Year 2	80.58	81.41
Year 3	76.52	84.54
Year 4	64.30	82.73
Year 5	73.62	82.20
Year 6	84.80	87.35



Evidence of impact (2): song competency

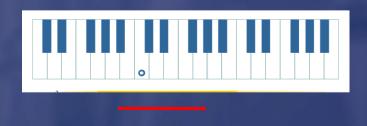
- n=107 pupils were in both the baseline and the post-intervention phases
- ❖ Statistically significant difference [t(106)=5.9, p<.0005]</p>
- ❖ The mean scores for the post-intervention assessments (M=81.80, SD=15.355) were significantly higher than for the baseline (M=70.58, SD=16.09)

	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Grand Total
female	11	18	2	12	14	57
male	17	13		10	10	50
Grand Total	28	31	2	22	24	107



Evidence of impact (3): vocal range

- ❖ Evidence of impact on sung vocal pitch ranges for n=107
- ❖ Statistically significant improvement [t(106)=5.398, p<0.0005]</p>
- ❖ Baseline phase: mean vocal pitch range M=10.83, SD=5.614 semitones
- ❖ Post-intervention phase: greater mean range M=13.70, SD, 4.379
- ♦ = +3 semitones

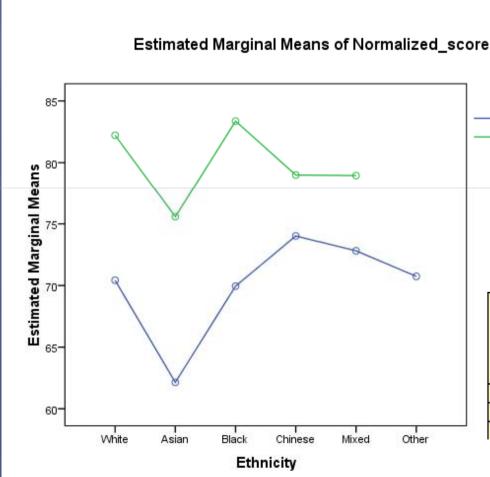




Evidence of impact (4): ethnicity

visit number

Baseline visit Post-intervention visit



All three major ethnic groups (by numbers) had higher singing ratings postintervention

Ethnicity	Baseline N	Normalised baseline singing score	Post- intervention N	Normalised post- intervention singing score
Asian	462	62.1	147	75.6
Black	239	69.9	55	83.4
White	2560	70.4	169	82.2



Evidence of impact (5): ethnicity

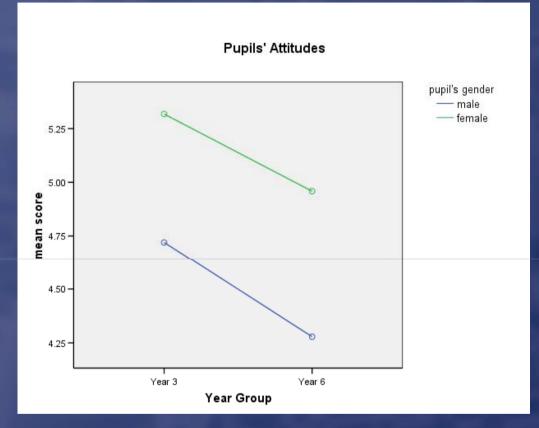
- No significant differences between White and Black children in either sets of data
- Asian children tended to be rated as significantly less developed in their song singing (baseline and post-intervention) compared to Black and White peers
- ❖ But, the Asian children's post-intervention rating is significantly higher than for their baseline and also higher than for either the White and Black pupils at their baseline.
- Also, schools with Asian pupils are in the upper quartile of school singing development rankings

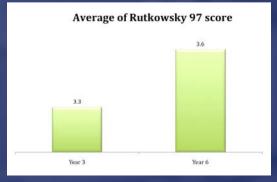


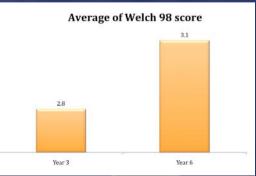
Age, Gender & Attitudes to Singing

(n=2,952 pupils in Years 3 and 6; questionnaire survey of 45 elements)

- Age differences
 - Young children more positive about singing than older children
- Sex differences
 - Females more positive at both ages about singing
- Inverse relationship between singing competency and attitudes to singing
 - Older children are more competent, but less positive



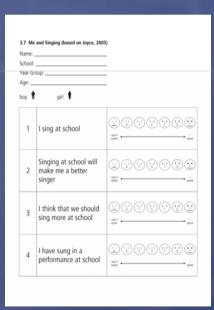


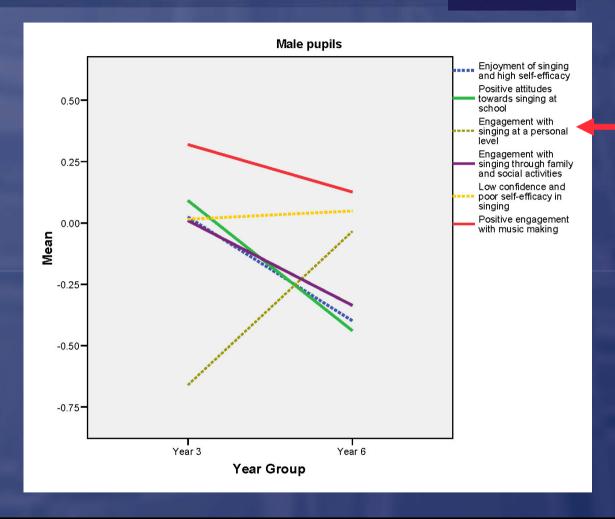


Boys and singing (baseline)

Y3 N=768 Y6 N=774

- Pupil questionnaire = 45 questions
- These reduce to six 'factors'





Engagement with singing at a personal level

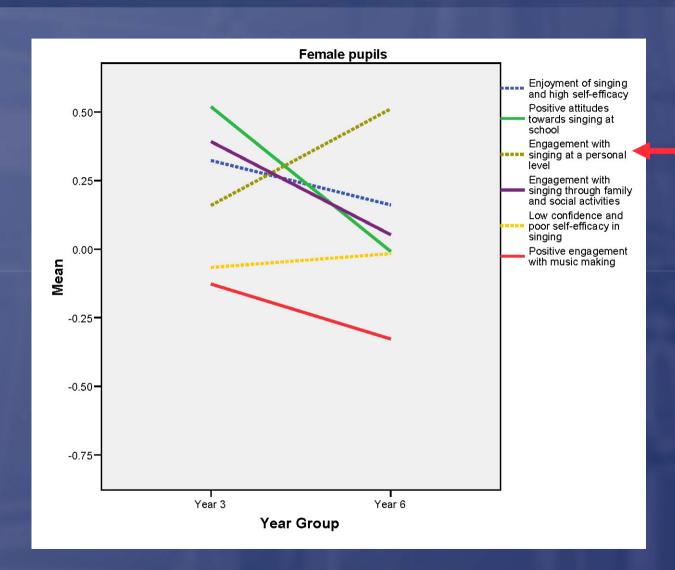
Positive attitudes towards singing at school

Enjoyment of singing and high self-efficacy Low confidence and poor selfefficacy in singing Engagement with singing through family and social activities

Positive engagement with music making

Girls and singing (baseline)

Y3 N=701 Y6 N=709

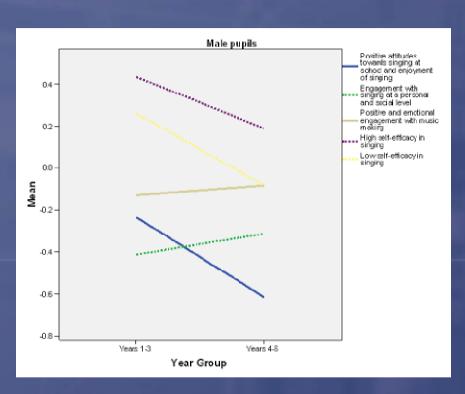


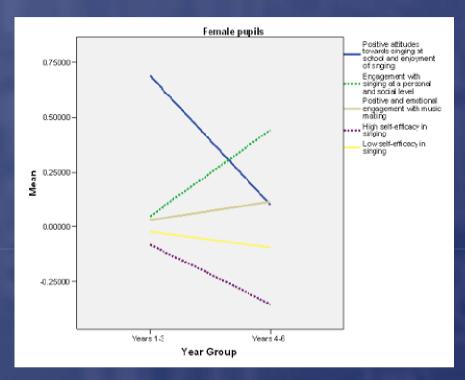
Similar pattern of responses to boys

Older girls (and boys) engage more with singing at a personal level, rather than in public contexts (school/family)



Post-intervention impact on attitudes





In comparison with the baseline data, additional factor analyses reveal:

- Both sexes have a more positive attitude to music making following their 'Singing Playgrounds' experiences
- Older boys and girls tend <u>not</u> to report themselves as having low selfefficacy in singing following their 'Singing Playgrounds' experiences



'Vocal Force' Workforce Development



Workforce Development 2007-08

- n = 249 responses from adults participating in Vocal Force activities
- ❖n=172 baseline (prior to development)
 - \bullet n=155 female
 - \diamond n=17 male
- n=77 post(after or during their professional singing development)
 - ♦ n=70 female
 - ♦n=7 male

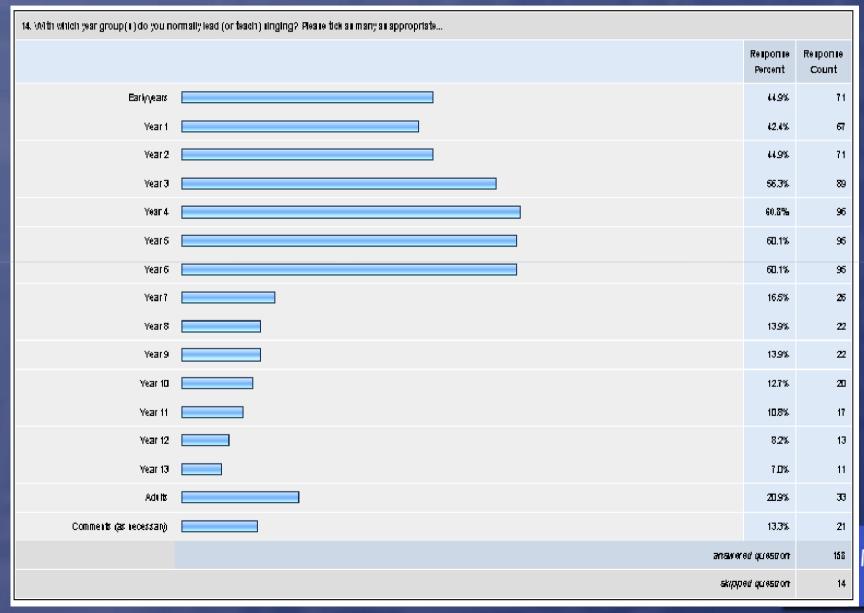


Age groups

Baseline Age Group						
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count				
20-29	23.3%	40				
30-39	27.3%	47				
40-49	30.2%	52				
50	19.2%	33				
	answered question	172				
	skipped question	0				



Focus year groups of Vocal Force participants





Responsibilities & qualifications

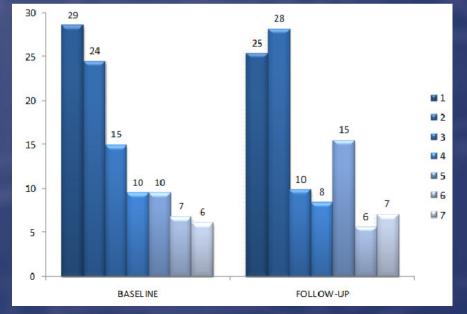
- Just over half of the baseline participants (53.8%) reported that they held a qualification in either music and/or singing.
- ❖ Nearly 2:3 (61%) held Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).
- Less than half (40%) reported that, if schoolbased, they had some formal responsibility for music within their school



Main findings (1)

- Overall, the singing development activities appear to be having a positive impact on participants' singing self-efficacy and their views on their own singing leadership (Q68 onwards).
- However, there is also evidence that a minority of participants continue to be aware of continuing personal weaknesses that need to be addressed (e.g., Q7, Q9, Q19) and/or that their workforce development may not be touching an underlying lack of self-confidence (e.g., Q10, Q11, Q17), nor their personal strategies for addressing such weaknesses.

Q19: I feel insecure about my singing



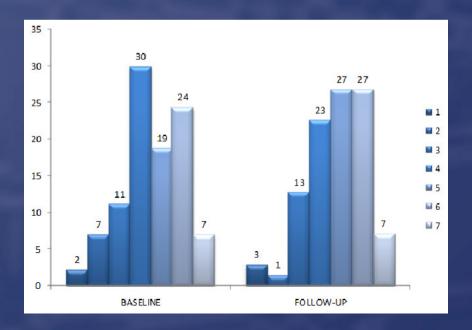


Main findings (2)

- ❖ The majority of participants believe that they provide a good role model in their singing (Q23).
- ❖ However, there is more variability in their professed understanding of children's vocal development (Q24, Q25) and also in how children use singing as part of their identity to define their culture (Q26).
- More follow-up respondents provide opportunities for children to lead singing (Q28).

Q26:

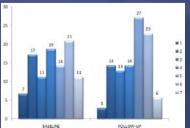
I take account of how children use singing to define their culture





Main findings (3)

- ❖ There is reported variability in participants' involvement of parents and other members of the community in singing (Q29).
- Concerning their knowledge of singing pedagogy, the data suggest that there is a positive shift towards increased confidence in:
 - how to promote vocal health and function (Q30);
 - in addressing basic singing issues (Q31);
 - establishing a safe environment for singing (Q33);
 - differentiation (individual and group) (Q35);
 - integrating singing into other activities (Q36);
 - and their ability to draw on singers and singing leaders from the wider community (Q39) (although a minority still find this difficult).



Q39: I am able to draw on singers and singing leaders from the wider musical community

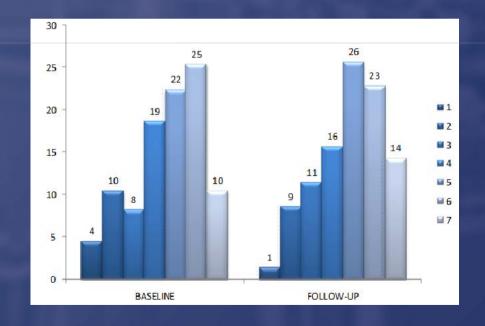


Main findings (4)

However, there are still a minority who are less certain about their ability to promote and support high quality singing performances (Q32) and to promote varied performing opportunities (Q34).

Q32:

I am able to promote and support high quality singing performances



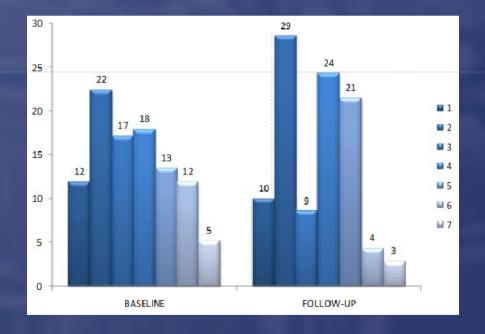


Main findings (5)

There is more general ongoing uncertainty about how technology might be used to support the creative use of voice (Q38).

Q38:

I am able to use ICT to support the creative use of the voice





Main findings (6)

- ❖ There is a positive shift in participants' awareness of extending repertoire choice (Q41) and knowing where to access support (Q42).
- ❖ Similarly, there is a greater awareness of cultural diversity and its contribution to singing (Q43, Q44), in how to use the physical space available for singing (Q46) and to lead singing activities (Q47).
- ❖ But there is less certainty about how to draw on musical genrespecific expertise from the wider musical community (Q45, Q48).



Main findings (7)

- Overall, participants report that their children are positive about singing (from section on 'Pupils in my class').
- But they also recognise that the same children may be less developed in their singing, composing and listening.
- ❖ Participants report a positive shift in their own enjoyment of leading singing (Q71) and in their confidence (Q72, Q73).
- ❖ Not all are convinced that only specialists should be leading music in primary schools (Q77), suggesting that they believe that there is a clear role for the generalist Primary school teacher in the promotion of singing development.



Overall?

(changes in mean scores on a 1-7 scale)

Group Statistics						
	strand	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	
Singing Related Activities Self efficacy	Baseline	172	4.464	2.0443	.1559	n.s.
	Follow-Up	79	4.559	1.8107	.2037	
Knowledge of Learners	Baseline	172	3.887	2.0221	.1542	n.s.
	Follow-Up	79	4.345	1.7639	.1985	
Knowledge of Singing Pedagogy	Baseline	172	3.672	2.2158	.1690	p<.01
	Follow-Up	79	4.270	1.8338	.2063	
Knowledge of Musics	Baseline	172	3.786	2.3025	.1756	p<.01
	Follow-Up	79	4.386	1.9472	.2191	
The pupils in my group	Baseline	172	3.947	2.4041	.1833	p<.001
	Follow-Up	79	4.584	1.9682	.2214	
My teaching and singing leadership	Baseline	172	4.137	2.5846	.1971	p<.01
	Follow-Up	79	4.790	2.1947	.2469	

- Self-efficacy ('my view of me as a singer') is relatively unchanged and needs more development, although the mean ratings are positive
- More Vocal Force development is needed on improving participants' understanding of how singing develops in children (this has improved, but not significantly)
- But, there is evidence of significant impacts on participants' knowledge of appropriate repertoire, reported pupil engagement and their sense of being better at leading singing



Singing benefits (and possible research foci)

Physical benefits

- Respiratory (aerobic)
- Cardiac
- Neurological
 - Development
 - Integration

Psychological benefits

- Intra-personal communication
- Catharsis
- Inter-personal communication

Musical benefits

- Understanding of musical structure, phrasing
- The development of musical memory
- Increased expertise in vocal tone colouring, pitch, rhythm and loudness
- Creation of a musical repertoire



Educational benefits

 Increasing knowledge, understanding and skills about the world around us

Social benefits

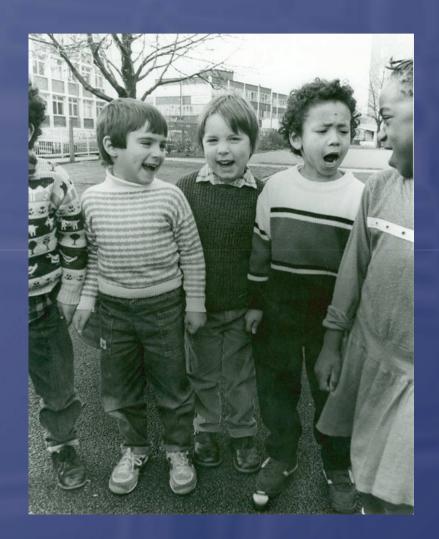
- Group membership
- Communication
- Sense of community
- Social integration



Research Team

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