

BIN-Nordens og Nordisk Ministerråds konference:  
Børn og kultur – det æstetiskes betydning?

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## **Paper proposal**

**Title: Music for the baby's brain, but what about aesthetics?**

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Key phrases:

The music industry and our children

Does music shape our children's brains?

Can preferences be shaped and molded in childhood?

Is ANY music good for our children?

Placering under konferencens undertemaer:

Det æstetiskes betydning i medier, kunst og kultur for børn? -I mødet med: **musik**

Presentation:

(Jeg) kan godt presentere på Norsk, Islandsk eller Engelsk

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### **Abstract (oversættelse til norsk er mulig)**

In the latter half of the 20th century, the music industry became increasingly aware of the opportunities in recorded music for children. However, following the widely publicized "Mozart-effect" in the 1990's there was an explosion in music intended for newborn babies. Many of the covers of these publications had references to the intellectual benefits of music for young infants.

The present study analyzed the contents and quality of some of the top-selling CD's intended for young infants. The CD's were selected according to the best-seller list of the Amazon online internet store. Criterion for analyses included: Genre, style, timbre, texture and performance quality. Comparisons were made to similar compilations intended for adults to estimate whether differences could be found between infant directed and adult directed compilations from an aesthetic perspective.

Research has shown that parents of newborn babies who at the hospital were given a CD with music were likely to play the music for their babies after they came home. Many of those parents believed that the music benefited their newborns' intellectual development. Studies have also found that parental musical engagement with their infants is found in all cultures but varies between individuals in terms of intensity.

In this presentation the literature on the eclectic benefits of listening to music will be reviewed and its implications for early childhood care. Furthermore, the literature on infant auditory perception and music in early childhood will be used to shed light on the role of aesthetics in music for infants and young children. The importance of aesthetics in the sound environment during the first years of life will be discussed and some issues will be raised on the nature of aesthetic experiences in early childhood.