

# PERFORMING ARTS FOR INFANCY: A VIDEO-BASED RESEARCH

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## Introduction

Performing arts for infancy has been a topic of growing interest to families and different agents involved in artistic programming. Aligned with this trend, research on musical development in infancy has increased in the past few years. Nevertheless, there is a lack of ethological and ethnographic studies in the field, mostly in the specific field of performing arts for infancy. This video-based research aims to describe how infants experience, respond to, and interact with music-theatre performances for infancy.

## Method

- 45 videos made by CMT were viewed and analyzed by two researchers. The analysis was focused on infants' behaviors that exhibited engagement with artistic performances.

- All selected videos were grouped into four major categories.

- Three researchers selected the most illustrative videos for each category to be edited as a final version to be available online.

## Results

### INFANT BEHAVIORS

#### Exploratory Actions



#### Focus



#### Emotional Expressions



#### Body Movement



#### Mirror Actions / Imitation



#### Vocalizations



#### Body-Voice Narratives



### INFANT-CAREGIVER INTERACTION



### INFANT-ARTIST INTERACTION



### MUSIC LEARNING THEORY

#### Body Movement



#### Vocalizations



#### Body-Voice Narratives



## Discussion

- Discussion of these categories through video materials may contribute to the discovery of new paths related to performing arts for infancy and infant development itself.

- Provide a tool for artists, caregivers and educators to further develop their understanding of infant behavior and to inspire future artistic practices in this field.

- Use of these categories to describe and analyze the engagement of infants, artists and caregivers during artistic performances for infancy.

## About CMT

*Companhia de Música Teatral* (CMT) is a Portuguese group that develops projects within the generic aesthetic designation of "theatrical music" or "music theatre". CMT's philosophy is based on the relationship between art and education. Leading to an articulation of academic research, artistic production, technological creation, and community engagement, CMT's work intends to call attention to the importance of musical experiences, and art in general, to social and human development. The term 'artistic-educative constellations' has been used in recent years to define a working model and a metaphor for the vision that guides CMT. GermlnArte project, of which this research is part, represents one of their latest "artistic-educative constellations". This project aims to provide professional caregivers, students, and family members more effective means to interact with babies and infants through music. GermlnArte is the result of a partnership between *Companhia de Música Teatral* and the Laboratory of Music and Communication in Childhood of CESEM, NOVA-FCSH. The project is supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and extends from 2015 to 2018.

SEE THE COMPLETE  
VIDEOS HERE

