AUDITORY DEVELOPMENT IN INFANTS: FROM PERCEIVING MUSIC TO SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Abstract
I will begin by discussing auditory abilities present very early in development related to auditory scene analysis, then present behavioural and EEG studies showing that infants and young children acquire sensitivity to the pitch and rhythmic structures of the music in their environment without formal training, just as they learn the language in their environment. I will then describe a study showing the effects of musical experience before 12 months of age. Finally I will consider the development of rhythm and the ability to entrain to a beat and the social implications of that ability.