

Report on

Children, Young People and **the Arts**



the arts
council
= chomhairle
ealaíon

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What children and young people
said about the arts in the surveys



About this report

This report describes the results of research carried out by the Arts Council in 2022 with children and young people about the arts and creative activities.

Some children and young people took part in workshops at their pre-school or school, and most completed a survey in their school or youth group.

The Arts Council wanted to hear from them to help make a plan for children and young people's arts.



The arts include:



Dance



Music



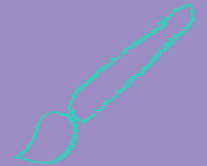
Stories



Poetry



Film



Painting



**Putting on plays,
going to shows**



**Making and
building**



**And much
more**

About the children and young people



A total of 676 children and young people across Ireland took part in the research.

They came from cities, towns and rural areas and from many different backgrounds including: Irish speakers; young Travellers; seldom heard children and young people; and those experiencing disadvantage.

424 Children

Aged 8 – 12 years ...
answered a survey for children.

179 Young People

Aged 12 – 19 years ...
answered a survey for young people.

17 Children

Aged 3 – 5 years ...
in a creche were asked about the arts.

48 Children

Aged 5 – 7 years ...
in a primary school were asked about the arts.

8 Autistic Children

Aged 6 – 13 years ...
in a primary school took part in the research.





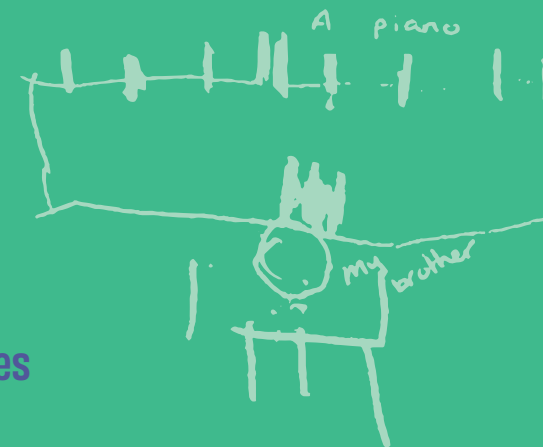
What children aged 3 – 5 years said about the arts

They like music and singing, dancing, painting, drawing and colouring, listening to stories, imaginary play and Lego.

The arts/creative activities make them feel *happy, good, excited, calm and fun.*



They do arts/creative activities at home, in their garden, on their road, in relations' houses.



They do arts/creative activities with their friends, childcare workers and visiting artists in their creche; with their siblings, parents and grandparents at home.

What children aged 5 – 7 years said about the arts



They like singing, dancing, drama,
imaginary play and making things.

Taking part in the arts/creative
activities makes children feel
happy, good, nice, fun, excited,
proud and cosy.



They take part in arts/
creative activities in
school, at home, outside
and in their gardens.

They would like to do more
making and building, drama,
dancing, painting, clay and
sculpting and crafting.

What autistic children aged 6 – 13 years said about the arts

They take part in arts/creative activities in their school with their art teacher and visiting artists, on school trips, in a local secondary school and at home.



They like singing, music, playing instruments, dancing, imaginary play, film, going to the cinema, learning circus tricks, making and building, creating things and coding.

They enjoy arts and creative activities that include sensory experiences.



Sensory experiences can have a calming and relaxing effect.

They enjoy creative experiences with movement, e.g., chasing paper airplanes.

How do the arts make children and young people feel?

What children and young people who answered the survey said...

● Children aged 8 – 12

● Young people aged 12 – 19



Where do children and young people like to take part in the arts and creative activities?

Children aged 8–12



The places children take part in arts or creative activities are:



73.8%

School



47.2%

Home



5.2%

Outside

29.5%



Anywhere/
Everywhere



Friends'/
Relations'
Houses

3.8%



Quiet Spaces

1.7%

The places young people take part in arts or creative activities are:



Theatre

4.1%



Youth Clubs

13.3%



School

65.3%



Home

46.2%



Outside

11%

6.9%



Anywhere/
Everywhere

4.6%



Friends

Shhh

Quiet Spaces

4.1%

What arts / creative activities would children like to try or do more of?



Painting & Colouring

30%



Acting & Drama

25%



Animation / Digital Animation

9.7%



Clay

22.2%



Cooking / Baking / Decorating

11.1%



Dancing

10.1%



Drawing & Sketching

25%



Music / Singing

17.2%



Construction / Building

17.2%

What arts / creative activities would young people like to try or do more of?



Animation

6%



**Acting &
Drama**

25.4%



**Spray Painting /
Graffiti**

7.1%



**Clay /
Sculpting /
Pottery**

16.6%



Dancing

7.7%



**Drawing /
Sketching**

20.7%



Painting

32%



Music

27.2%

What stops young people taking part in arts and creative activities?



Embarrassment, Peer Pressure & Bullying	23.7%
School, Study & Homework	21.9%
Lack of Time	15.4%
Lack of Access to the Arts	15.4%
Cost	14.8%
Lack of Confidence	12.4%
Fear of Failure / Nervousness	11.3%
Sport & Extra-curricular Activities	8.9%
Parents / Lack of Encouragement	7.1%

How can we help more children and young people take part in the arts?



CHILDREN AGED 8 – 12	YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12 – 19
39.2% More School-based Arts Activities	34% More School-based Arts Activities
34.3% Consulting with Children about the Arts	31.4% More Arts Funding
10.8% Free Arts Classes, Workshops, Camps, and Supplies	21.8% More Arts Facilities
7.8% Giving More Money to the Arts	17.3% More Arts Groups / Projects
6.1% More Arts Facilities	9.6% More Promotion / Advertisement of the Arts
5.7% Helping / Encouraging Children	5.1% Help / Support for Young People to take part in the Arts and Creative Activities
5.7% More Fun Activities	

The Arts Council would like to thank all of the children and young people who shared their views. Special thanks to the child and youth advisory groups who helped to develop and design the surveys, and to make this report.

We would also like to thank the teachers and youth group leaders who coordinated the surveys for their groups; the artists who facilitated focus groups; Kids' Own Publishing Partnership who facilitated the child and youth advisory groups; our Creative Schools team who helped us to reach a wide diversity of schools across the country; the National Youth Council of Ireland and Involve Youth Services who helped us to reach a diversity of youth groups; and researcher Sandra Roe who worked with us on this project.



Image credits in order of appearance:

Branar, *Sruth na Teanga*, 2021

Helen MacMahon, *Hesperidae*, 2019 © Arts Council Collection

Image from Arts Council consultation workshop, 2022

Dance Limerick, *Step Up Dance Project*, 2019

Selma Daniel, *AdoleTa!*, 2019

Image from Arts Council consultation workshop, 2022

Towers and Tales Festival, 2021

Kids' Own, *TADA!* Exhibition, Baboró International Festival for Children, 2021

Images from Arts Council consultation workshops, 2022

Highlanes Gallery, children's workshop, 2014

Kids' Own, Arts Council child and youth advisory group workshop, 2021

Irish Chamber Orchestra, *Sing out with Strings*, 2014

Jess Rowell, *Making Waves*, 2023

Unwrapped Festival, Window Installation, Tallaght Library, 2020

Selma Daniel, *AdoleTa!* (rehearsal image), 2018

Tumble Circus, *Cycle Circus*, 2021

Irish Modern Dance Theatre, *Feathers*, 2015

Theatre Lovett, *The True Story of Hansel and Gretel*, 2015

Baboró International Festival for Children, *Tiny Mutiny*, 2022

Young Irish Film Makers, *Members at NYCI Youth Arts Showcase*, 2014

Benjamin De Burca and Barbara Wagner, *Rise*, 2018 © Arts Council Collection

Baboró International Festival for Children, *Tiny Mutiny*, 2022

Théâtre de la Guimbarde, *Cache-Cache*, Baboró International Festival for Children, 2018

Julianstown Youth Orchestra, 2017

Image from Arts Council consultation workshop, 2022

Arts Council child and youth advisory group workshop, 2023



