

Does Music Make You Smarter? By John Rogers

The topic is: playing Music To Get Smarter.

1 The creator of an organization, called Harmony Project, in Los Angeles that provides free music lessons to low-income students from neighborhoods with gang problems, has noticed a hopeful sign. The kids were graduating high school and going to some big universities.

2 Researchers at Northwestern University in Illinois believe that the students' music training played a part in their educational success. Martin noticed 90% of them graduate from high school. According to results reported in The Journal of Neuroscience, a two-year study of 44 children in the program shows that the training changes the brain. Music makes it easier for young people to process sounds, which is connected directly to improved skills in reading and speech.

Speaking

Actualmente

3 However, there is one detail, people have to actually play an instrument to get smarter. They can't just listen to the music on their iPod.

4 April Benasich, a professor of neuroscience at Rutgers University in New Jersey, said research has demonstrated the value of music is improving concentration, memory, and focus in children.

Shown

Increasing

Supporting detail #2

5 Researchers at the Rutgers University studied the students for over two years, attaching electrical devices to their heads to monitor changes in their brains. Test people were selected at random from those on a waiting list to enter the program. One of the researchers' key findings was that two years of musical training made a difference in brain changes. For example, Adelina Flores, whose 11-year-old daughter, America, was a test subject, said she wasn't surprised by the results. Her daughter told her she was getting better at math. Playing music, she said, had taught her to divide notes into fractions and count them out in measures.

Music Groups