

The project titled **The long-term musical training and reading ability - eyetracking research about cognitive functioning of children aged 6-9** is aimed to examine check whether children learning to play musical instruments cope significantly better with reading alphabetical text than those ones who do not play instruments. The existing research suggests that musical training influences positively working memory which can result in more efficient reading of musicians compared to non-musicians. I predict that music school education will **positively influence the cognitive processes, proper functioning of which is necessary during reading.**

160 children (aged 6 to 9) attending and not attending music schools, will participate in the study. The children will be examined 3 times: at the beginning of school and then after one and two years of school. In testing the reading skills, **we will use an eye tracker**, an innovative equipment that **allows tracking eye movements while reading.** Analysis of reading strategy allows verifying whether the children who learn to read music are better at reading the alphabetical text.

The project results will emphasise the positive influence of developing musical skills, such as playing the instruments, learning to read musical notation, as well as pitch and rhythm training. The project will bring forward arguments for paying more attention to the problem of too few music classes in elementary and junior high schools.