

Executive Summary Evaluation report Muziekmaatjes project

Introduction

This is an evaluation study of the Muziekmaatjes (Music Buddies) project in the Child & Adolescent Department of Dijklander Hospital in Hoorn. The evaluation study was conducted by a researcher with a scientific background and uses qualitative research methods. The purpose of this report is not to formulate scientific knowledge or demonstrate generalizable effects, but to provide insight into the development and implementation of the music buddy project.

Muziekmaatjes commissioned the evaluation by Arts in Health Groningen.

The pilot project

Specially trained professional musicians affiliated with Boedijn Music School visited the children's ward two mornings a week at fixed times for a year to create live music with and for children, their families, and healthcare professionals. In patient rooms, group rooms, and the outpatient clinic, the musicians sang, improvised, and used musical instruments to encourage participation and connection between patients, family members, and other attendees. The project was intended not only for distraction and relaxation, but also as a way to enrich the hospital experience for patients and their families and normalize the care environment for young patients.

The evaluation describes the implementation of the project and its development, assessing how the project objectives were achieved. The project was not designed as therapy. Rather, the goal was to complement regular care with personalized attention, to encourage relaxation, lightheartedness, and social connection through music. The project was initiated by pediatrician Noud Drewes.

The partners

The pilot project took place from November 2024 to November 2025 in the Child and Adolescent Department of Dijklander Hospital. It was made possible in part by financial support from the VSB Fund and developed in close collaboration between Dijklander Hospital and the Boedijn Music School.

Findings

The implementation process addressed the goal of *collaborative learning and knowledge sharing*. The practice *contributed to the well-being of patients and families through music*. The project *increased inclusivity and accessibility around music-making*, and *connections were strengthened between the city and region*.