

Munchen, 03-07/11/10
7th Hope Congress

“A School as a Friend”

A tele-teaching project

Tele-teaching

Tele-teaching - educational sessions using IT connections and webcams - is a powerful tool for children who are unable to participate in the conventional education system because they are suffering an illness and can't move from either the hospital or home.

In fact tele-teaching offers the opportunity to a child of integrating the experience of being ill in a better perspective within his/her self image. It gives him/her links to everyday life and opens expectations for the time when his/her illness will be over.

The psycho-social dimension

In practice, when in the hospital, a child can be involved in interactive experiences that have a declared learning proposal (since school is part of a child's identity), but the priority objective can be identified in the socio-psychological dimension: communicating not only with a teacher but with other children (and using the interesting/motivating technology of video communication) can help to feel better.

General objectives of the project

- Enable children to exercise their rights to “education” and “to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health”^[1]
- Heighten learning/scholastic motivation and maintain/cultivate interests and social contacts
- Help to alleviate isolation through integration with peers
- Improve the emotional, social and learning capacity of the individual
- Strengthen the quality of multidisciplinary care of the child
- Promote friendship as a value and widen concrete participation in the spirit of solidarity
- Help in mastering how to deal with illness and suffering
- Modify stereotypical and stressful views of the hospital services

^[1] Article 24.1 Convention on the Rights of the Child

Project history

Our project - called “Una scuola per amico / A school as a friend” - is based on a wide partnership. It started in 2001 in Ancona. At this stage partners are: Marche Region, Children Hospital “G. Salesi” located in Ancona, the school “Mario Natalucci” of Ancona (that runs the hospital school, too), Regional School Office, Regional Institute for Research in Education, Ancona City Council, Telecommunication firms, 3 associations of volunteers. Every two years the agreement is renewed.

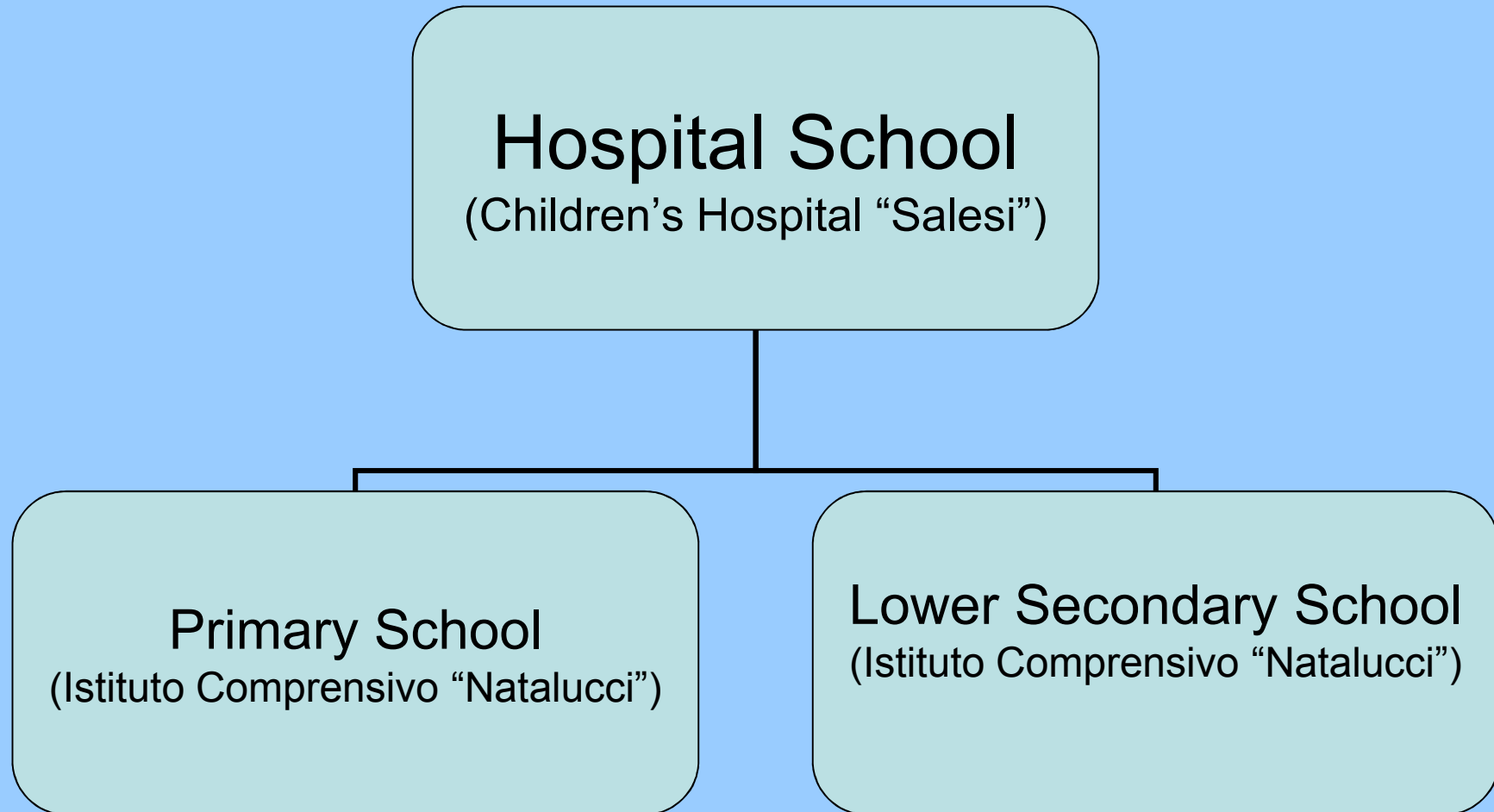
Resources

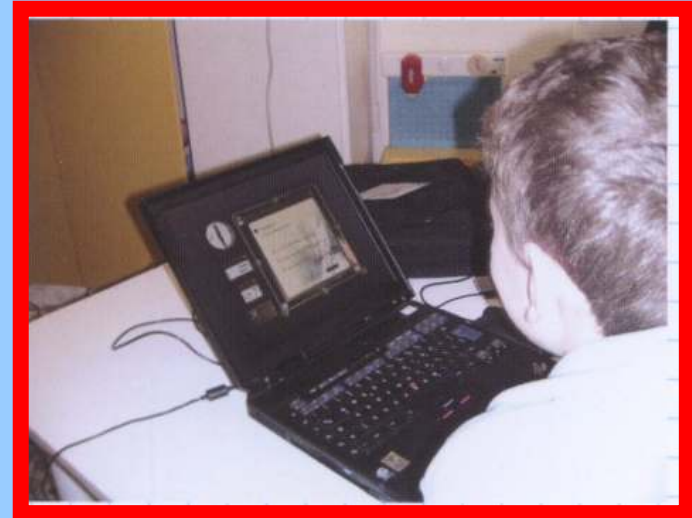
Funds are provided by Region Marche.

A wide range of IT tools has been provided to connect hospital wards with one elementary school and one lower secondary school.

Teachers are not involved fulltime in the project. Altogether they were about 25 (12 in the school hospital and 13 in the mainstream schools) during last school year.

Connections





Target groups

Until now the target group is made firstly of hospitalized children from six to fourteen and secondly of children attending the two schools from ten to fourteen - but it is hoped to include older students too.

Key methodological aspects

- Adherence to the objectives
- Integration (of services, of areas of the individual, of individuals)
- Flexibility
- Active participation of the children
- Continuity
- Traceability (monitoring)

Operational phases

- Staff training
- Involvement of whole school classes and short training for the students
- Planning and delivering of the lessons
- Monitoring

“Una Scuola per Amico” opens up a new partnership with

- L'Ecole Escale asbl (CN William Lennox), Belgium

- Sjukhuskolan i Göteborg på Drottning Silvias barn-och ungdomssjukhus SU/Östra, Sweden

OPEN

The BOX



OPEN THE BOX is:

1 virtual box and 3 real boxes (one in each country),
5 drawers containing lots of tools about the intercultural communication through the five senses,
For each tool a pedagogical file in our mother tongue and in English, as well as the material needed to realize the proposed activities,
Communication between the teachers who take part in the project as well as between the pupils and students who create and discover the different activities.

OPEN THE BOX is also:

A partnership between three countries,
Communication between hospitalized pupils and students of different ages,
The discovery of the European linguistic and cultural diversity,
The improvement of communication strategies based on the observation, the analysis and the reflection about language in all its senses,
The tolerance and respect of the difference,
A new motivation to learn to communicate in English or in another language

OPEN THE BOX
Comenius 2010-2012
ITALY- SWEDEN- BELGIUM



Lifelong Learning Programme

Data related to indicators of goals attainment

- **Questionnaire for hospitalized children**

Submitted soon after a video-lesson [133 entries 2008/09 and 2009/10]

- **Questionnaire for parents of hospitalized children**

Submitted after video-lessons [18 entries 2008/09 and 2009/10]

- **Questionnaire for children in the schools**

Submitted at the end of the school year [194 entries 2008/09]

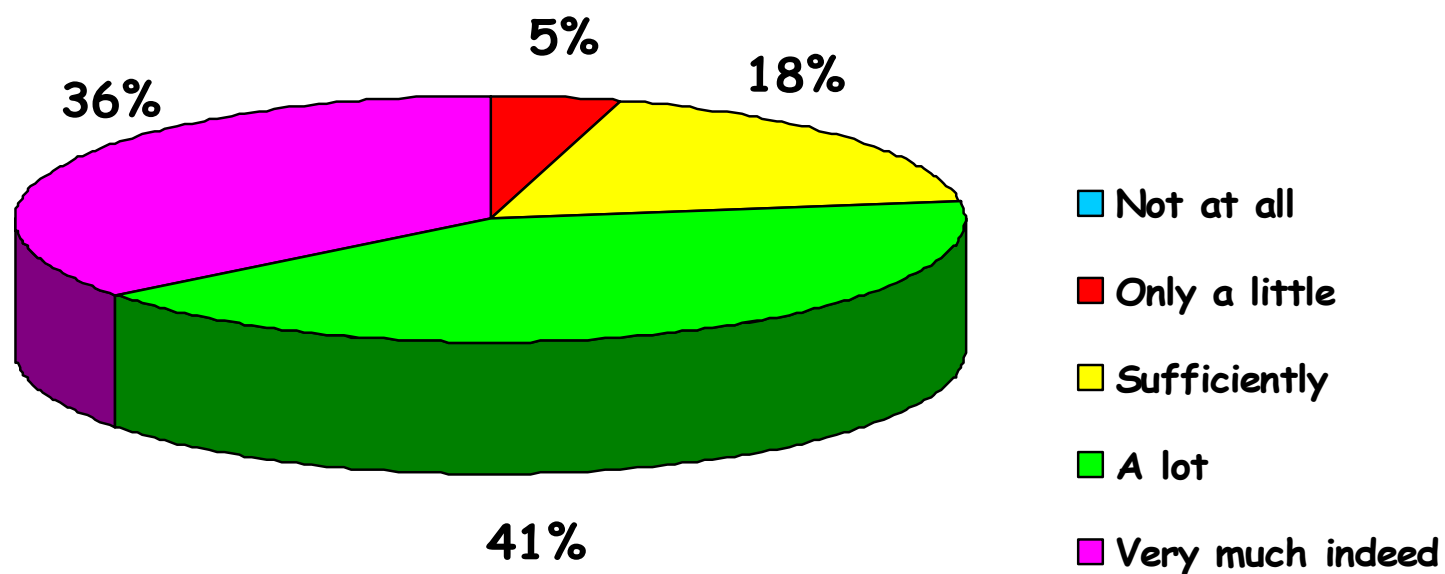


Specific objectives for hospitalized children

- **Guarantee the maximum well-being during hospitalization** (overcome loneliness, cultivate interests other than the illness itself)
- **Promote a functional adaptation of the ill child's self-image** (self-acceptance even as a illness-affected person, mastering to welcome help and ask for help, integrate illness as part of one's own life)
- **Provide learning experiences in order to maintain a bond with the school world**

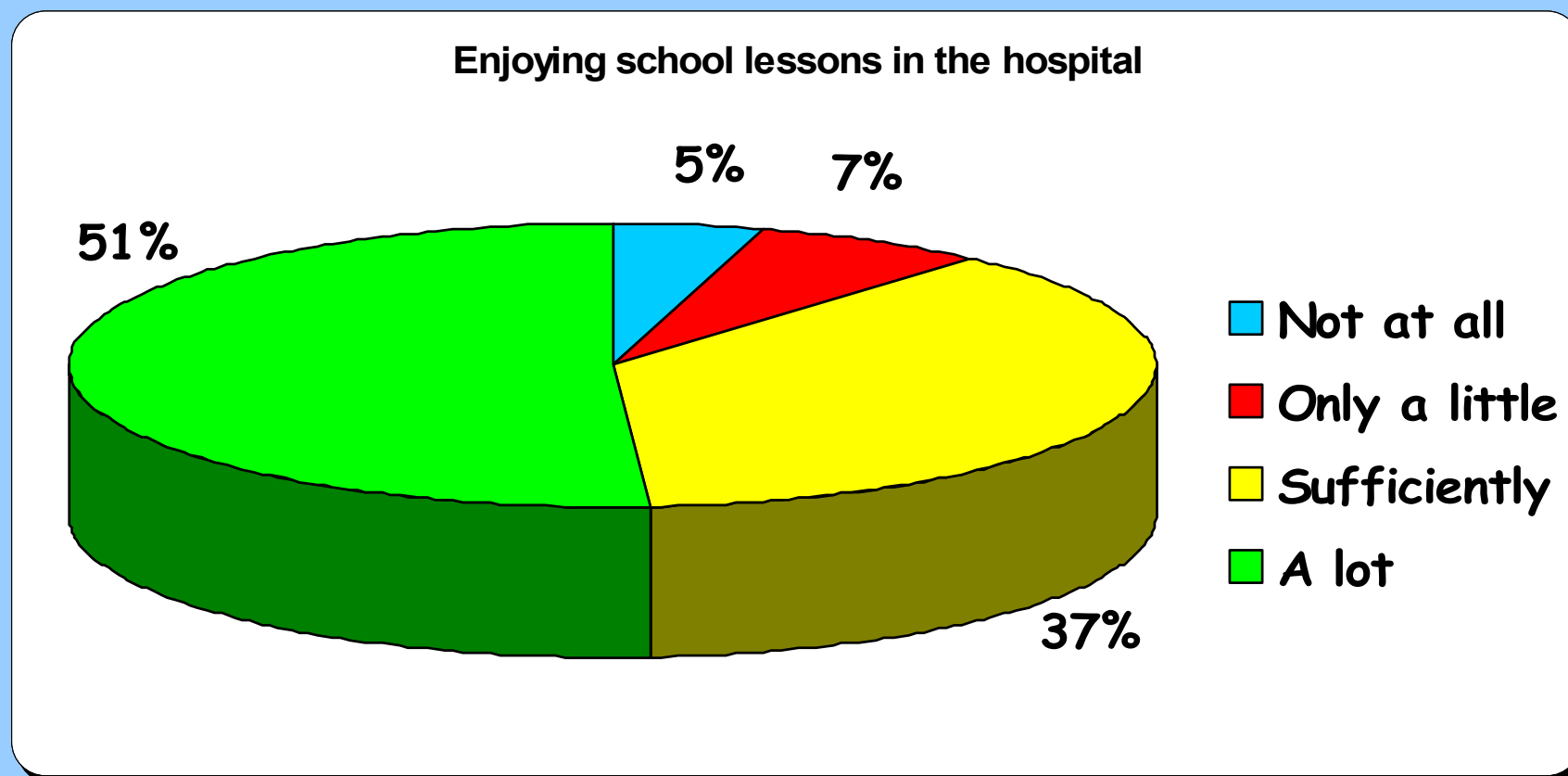
2008/09 and 2009/10: The voice of hospitalized children

Did you like this activity?



2008/09 and 2009/10: The voice of hospitalized children

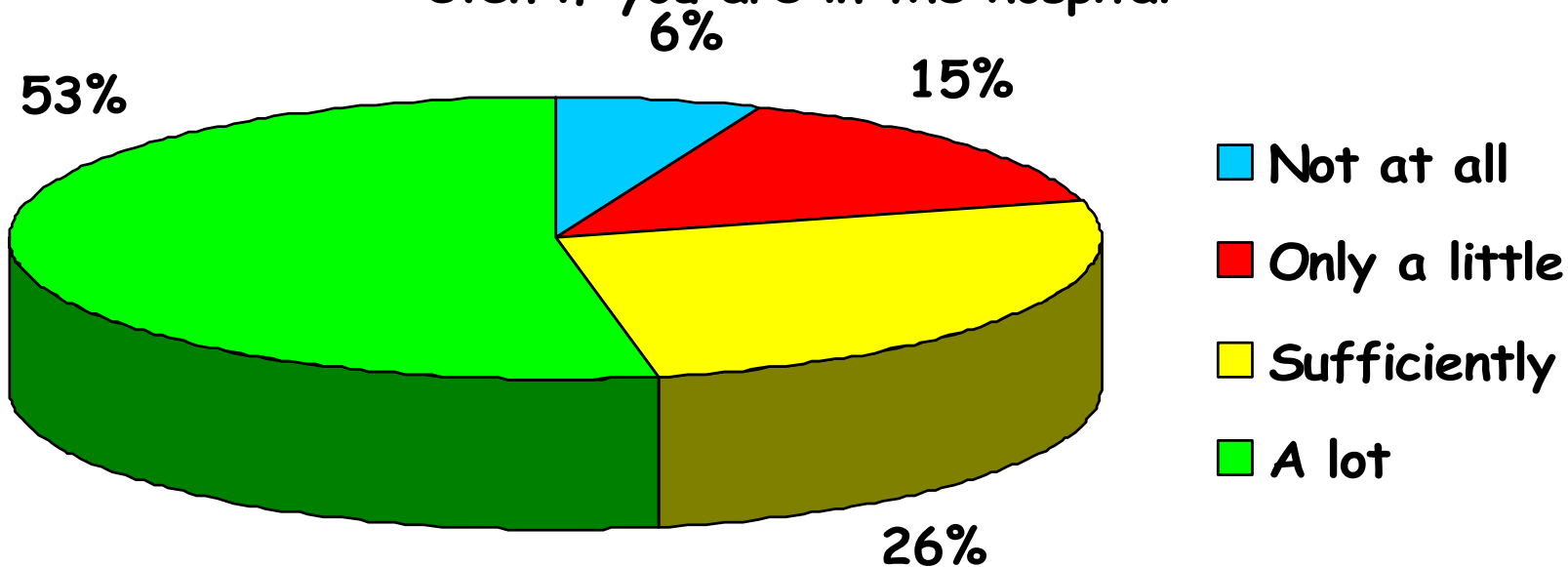
“Indicate how much interest you felt in:”



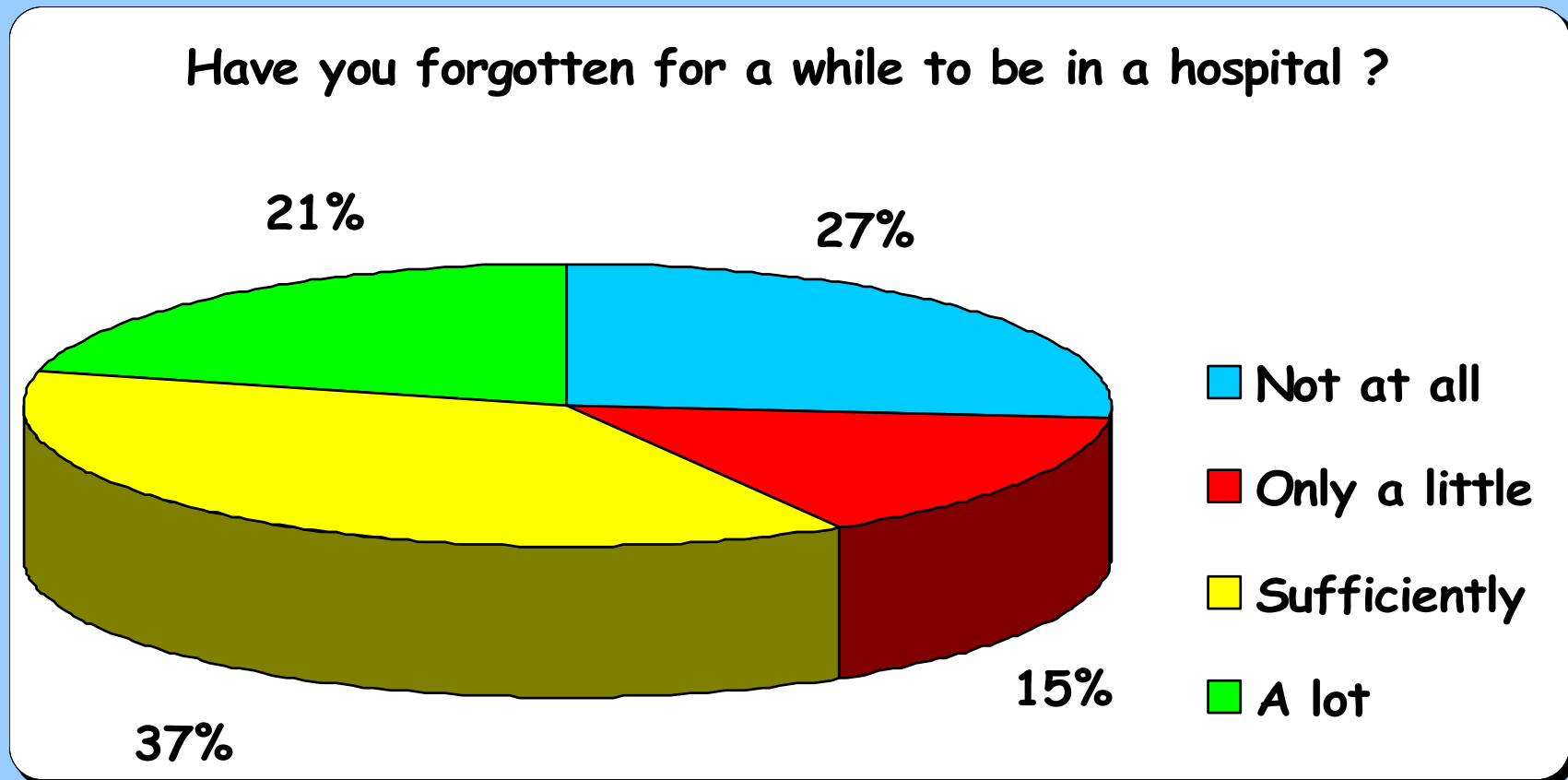
2008/09 and 2009/10: The voice of hospitalized children

“Indicate how much interest you felt in:”

Get the chance to see what is going on in a school
even if you are in the hospital

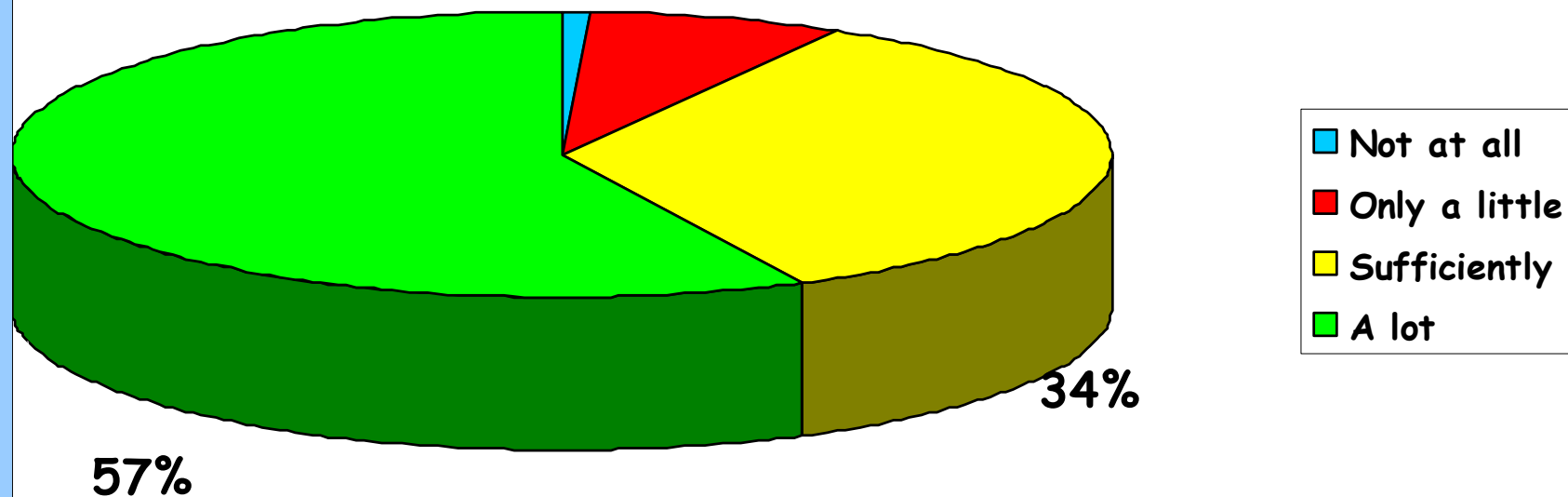


2008/09 and 2009/10: The voice of hospitalized children



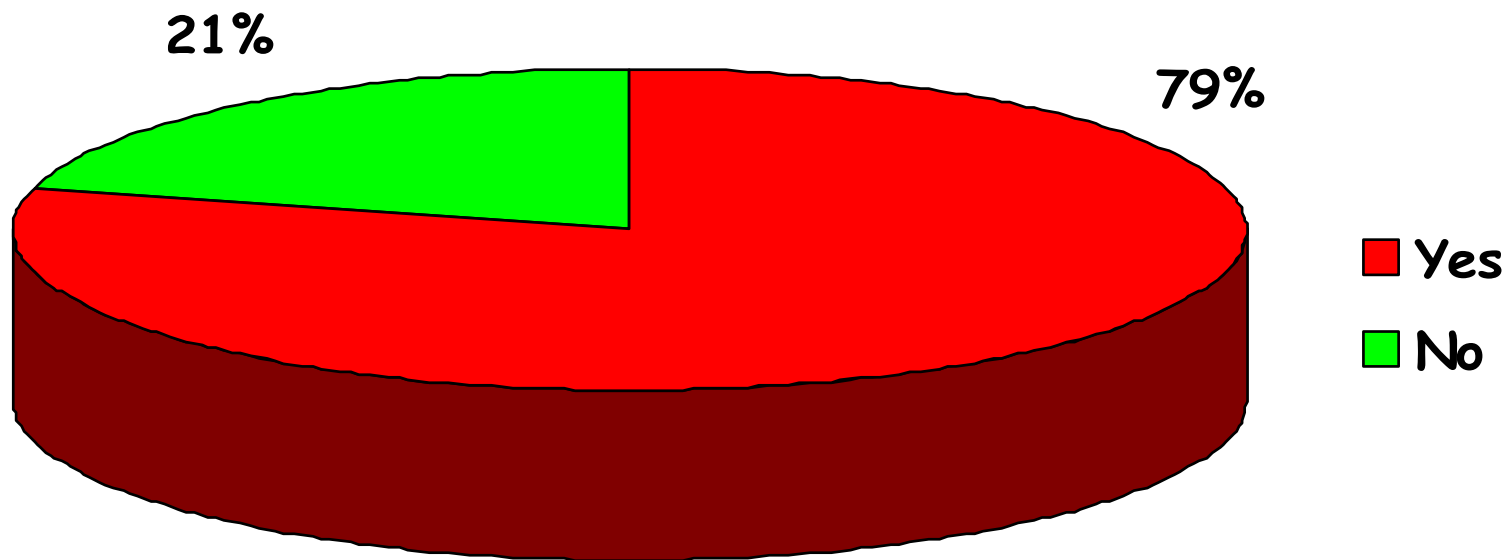
2008/09 and 2009/10: The voice of hospitalized children

How much have you felt interested in the subjects presented by the students?
8%



2008/09 and 2009/10: The voice of hospitalized children

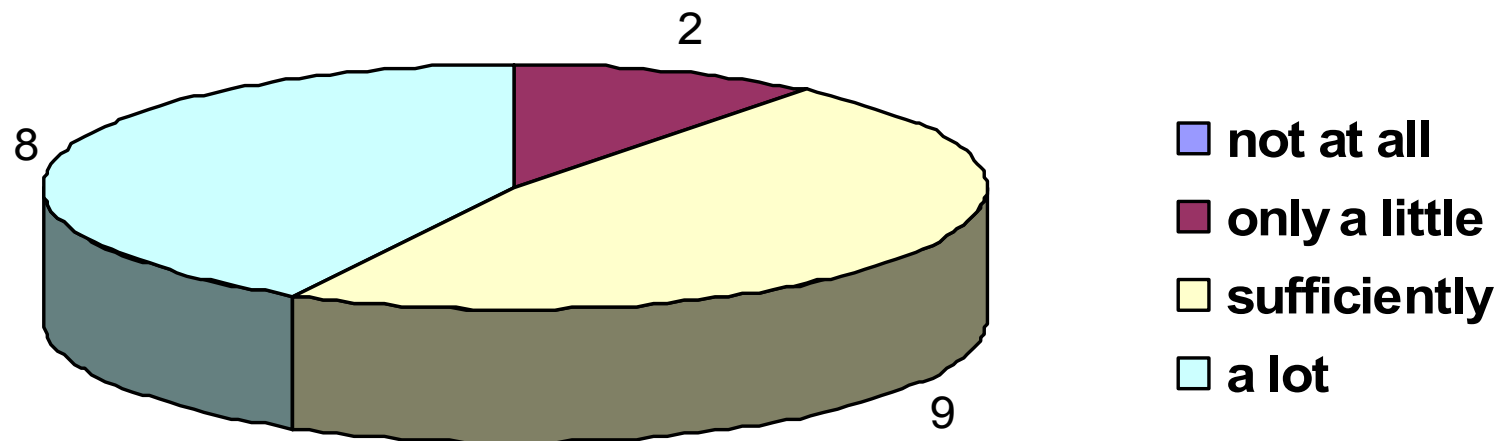
When back at school, will you tell your mates of this experience?



PARENTS' VIEW

Your child having experienced tele-learning contributed to:

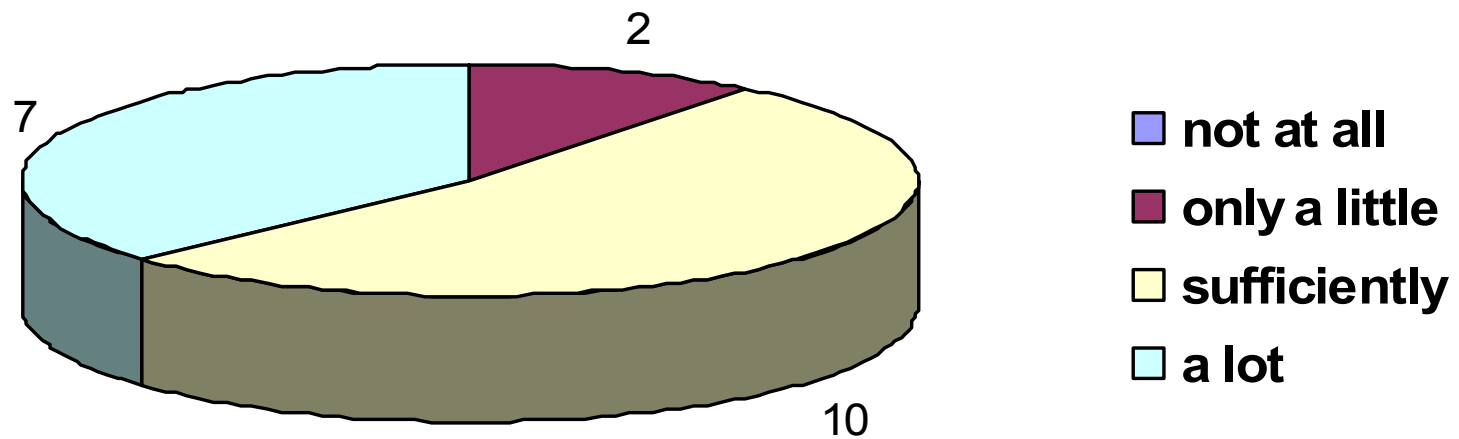
lessen his/her unpleasant feelings connected to hospitalization



PARENTS' VIEW

Your child having experienced tele-learning contributed to:

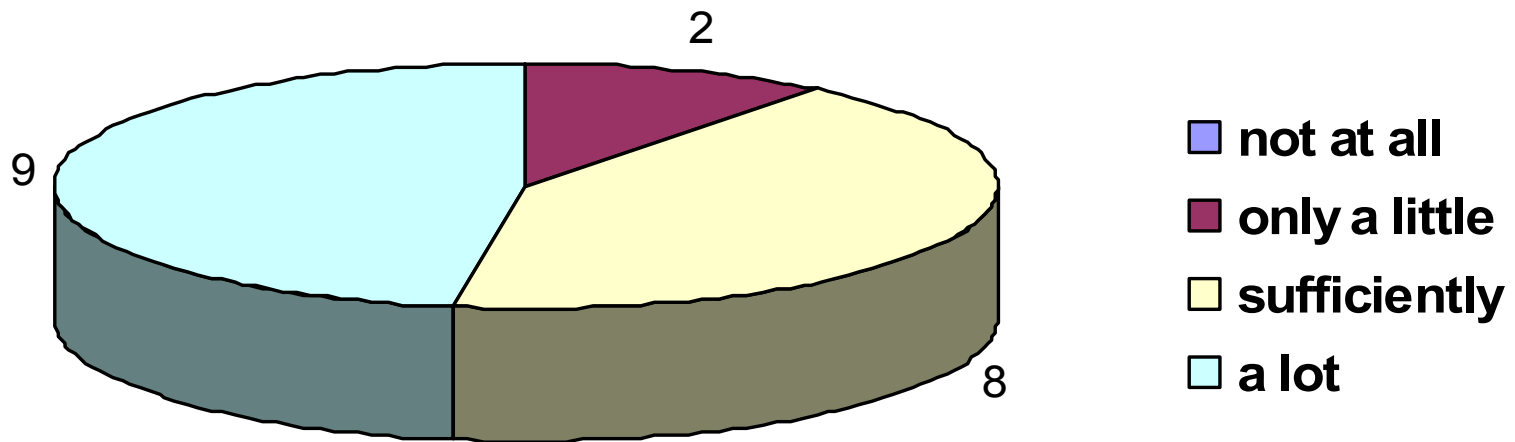
make him/her feel less isolated



PARENTS' VIEW

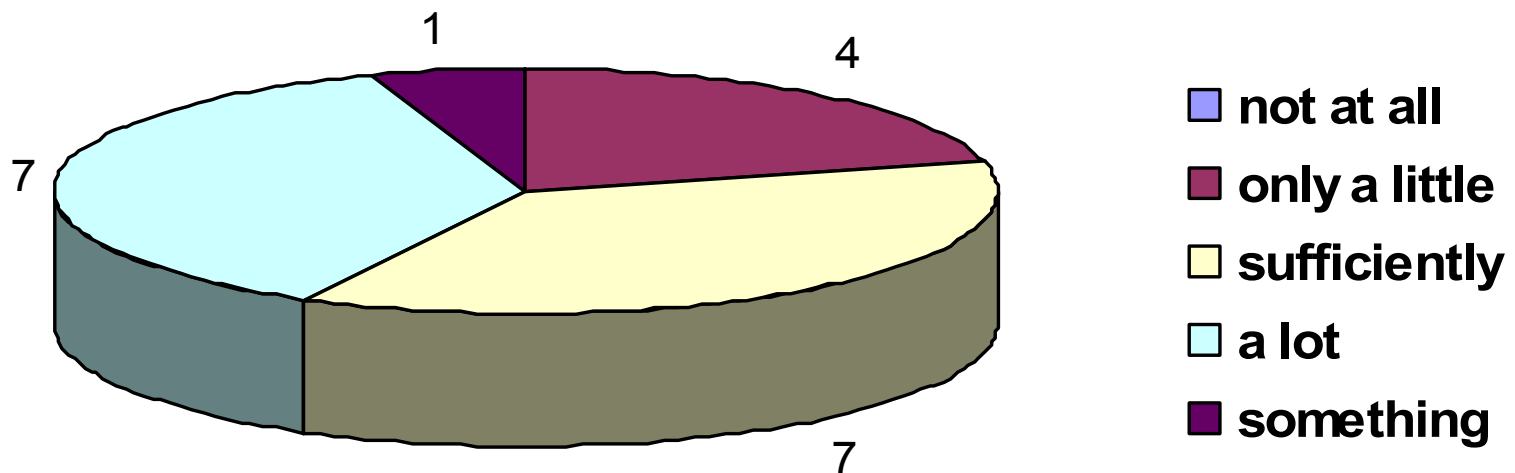
Your child having experienced tele-learning contributed to:

distract him/her from thinking of being ill



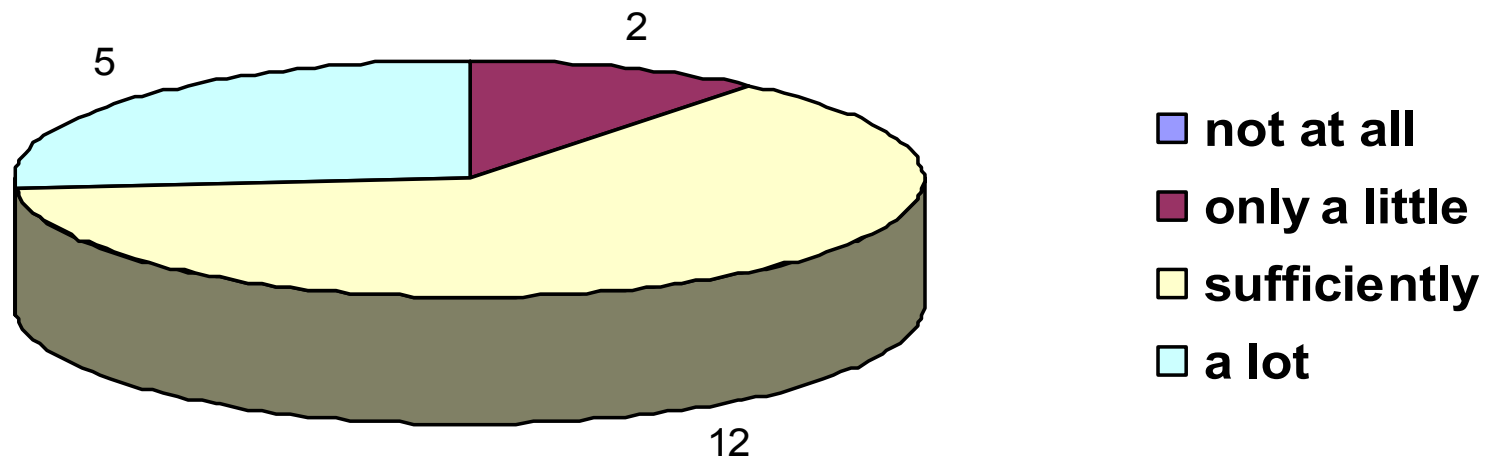
PARENTS' VIEW

Has your son/daughter learned anything new from video-lessons?



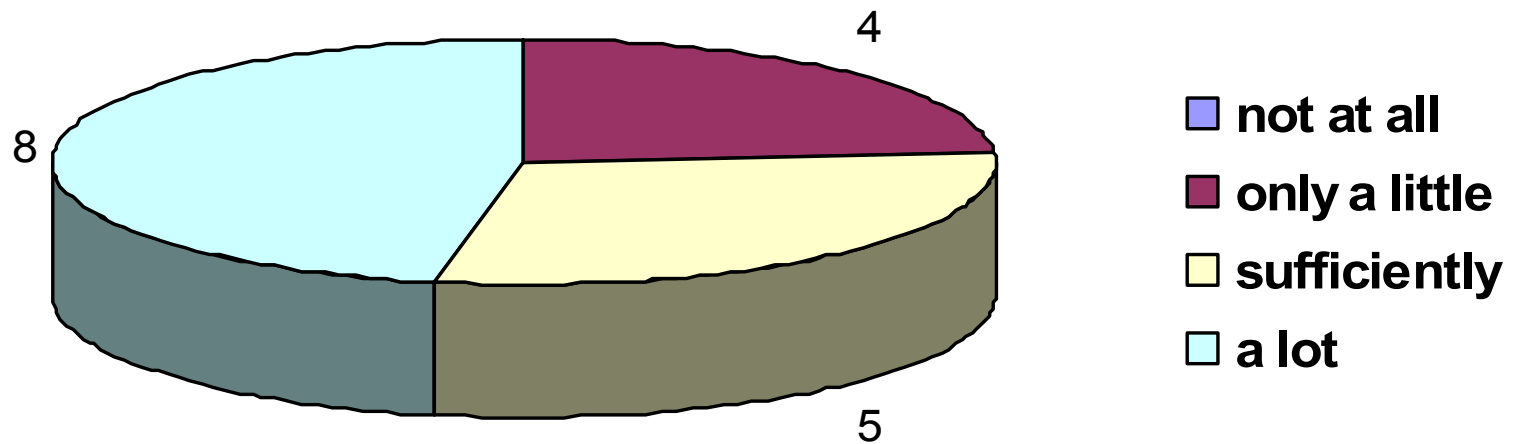
PARENTS' VIEW

Has telelearning helped your child in acquiring a more acceptable idea of the hospital?



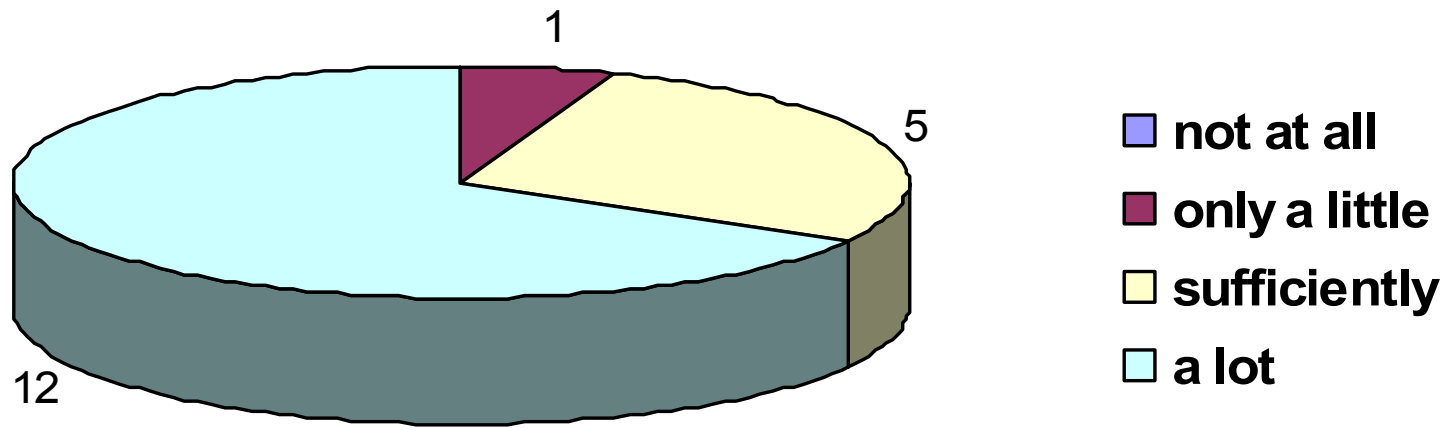
PARENTS' VIEW

Has telelearning enhanced your child's will to study and attend school?



PARENTS' VIEW

Has telelearning enhanced your child's ideas of friendship and mutual help?

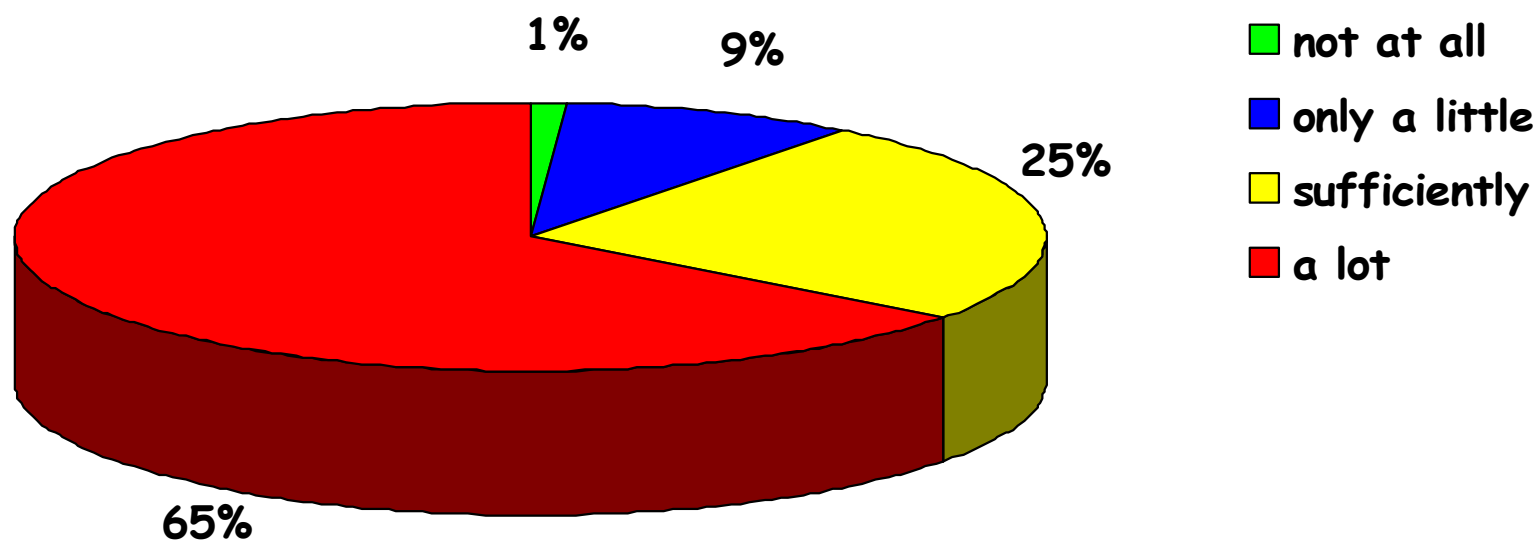


Specific objectives for children in the schools

- Promote pro-social attitudes (empathy, friendship, responsibility sharing, helping the ones in need)
- Heighten development of creativity, ability of projects planning/implementation, mastering of new technologies
- Proceed in acquiring knowledge of the hospital environment, handling of illnesses through empathic interaction and experience exchange
- Acquire further abilities in self-expression and interpersonal communication

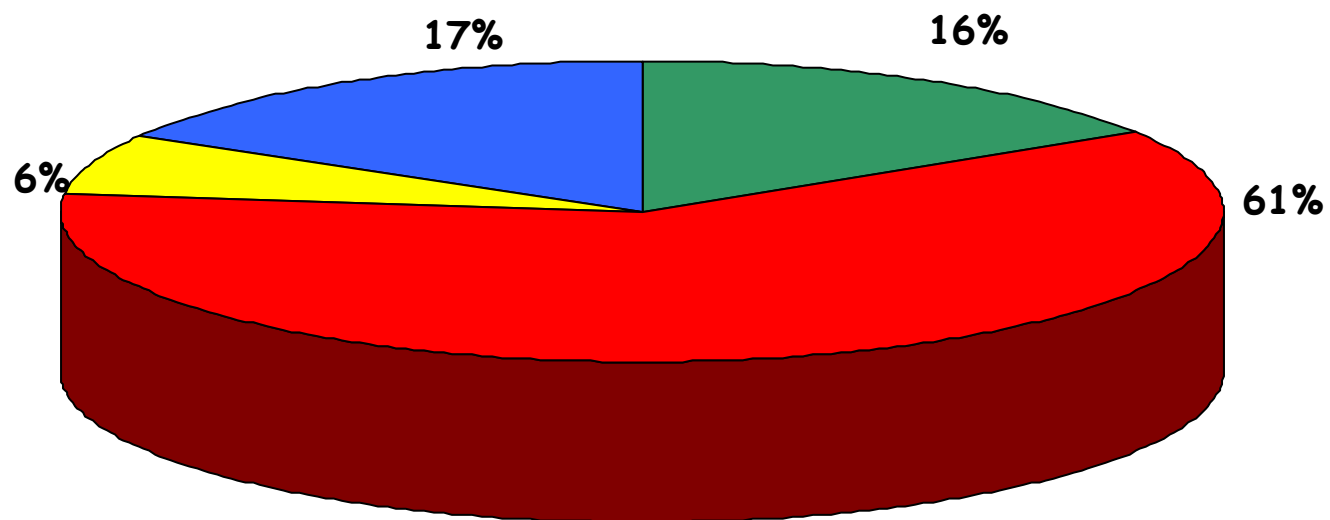
2008/09: The voice of the children in the schools

Has the project A School as a Friend been an occasion for you to meet and help new children who can't attend school because of their illness?



2008/09: The voice of the children in the schools

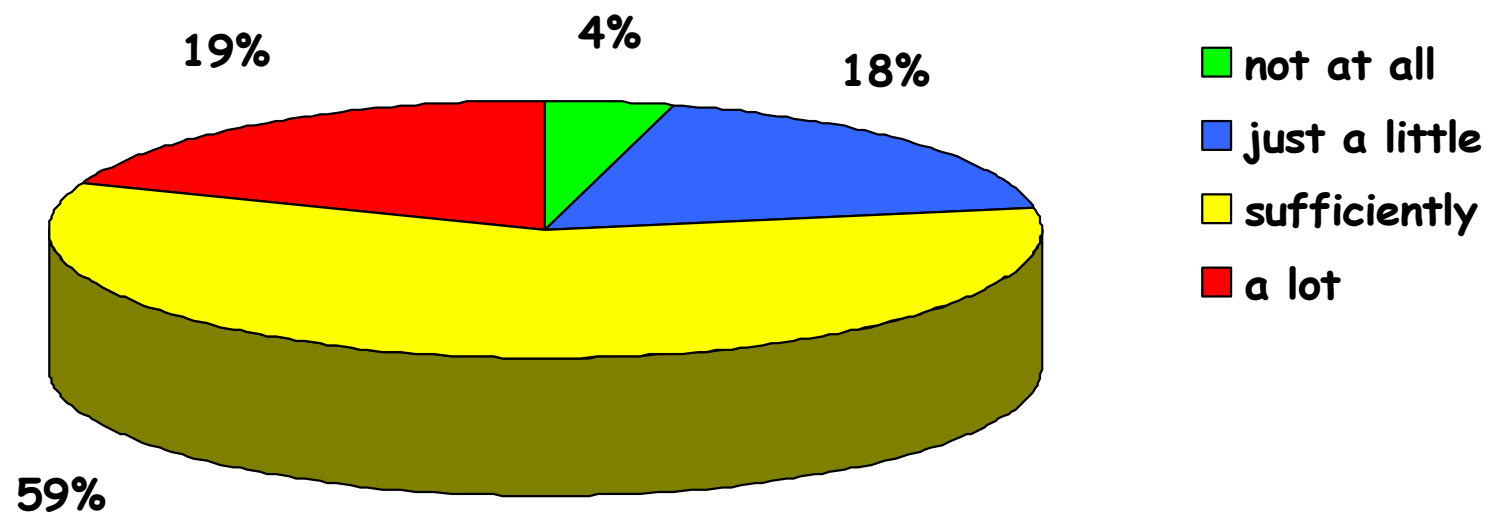
Participating in a video-lesson is interesting to :



- Meet new children
- Help children who can't attend school because of their illness
- Learn how to use new communication tools
- Learn to work in groups together with mates

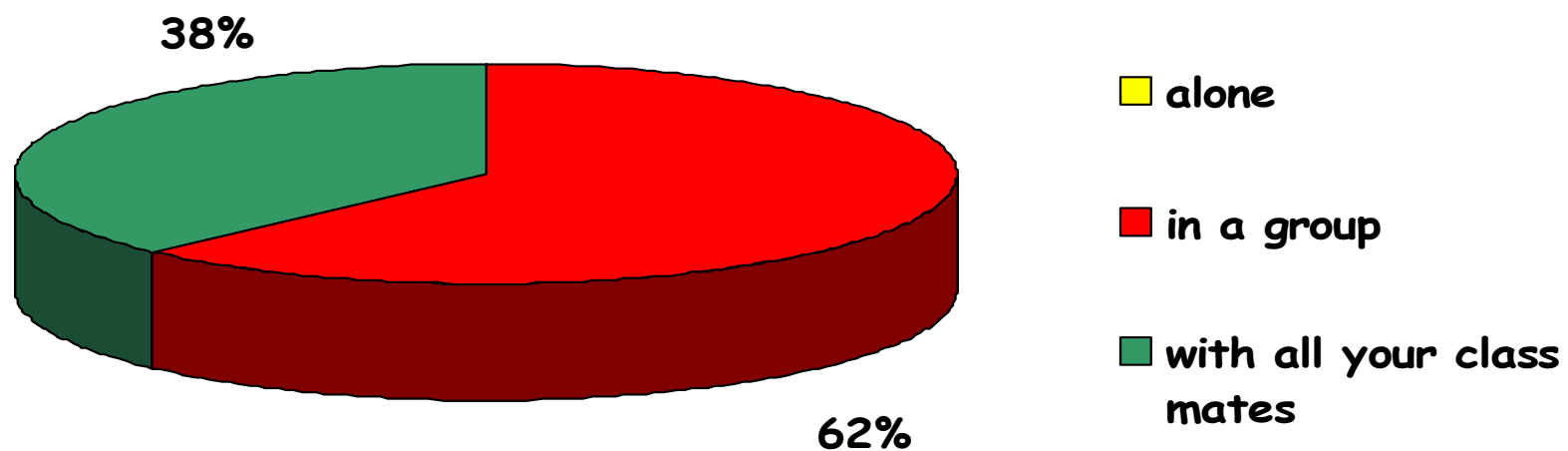
2008/09: The voice of the children in the schools

The project A School as a Friend has been an occasion for you to grow up as a more mature individual



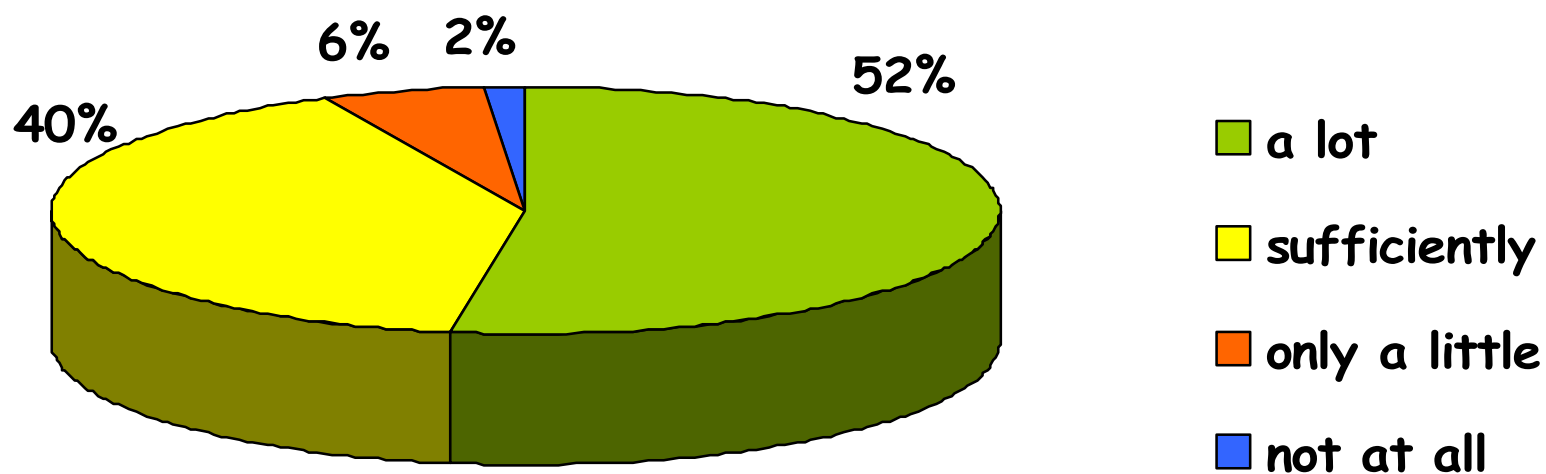
2008/09: The voice of the children in the schools

In order to realize a video-lesson, at school you have worked:



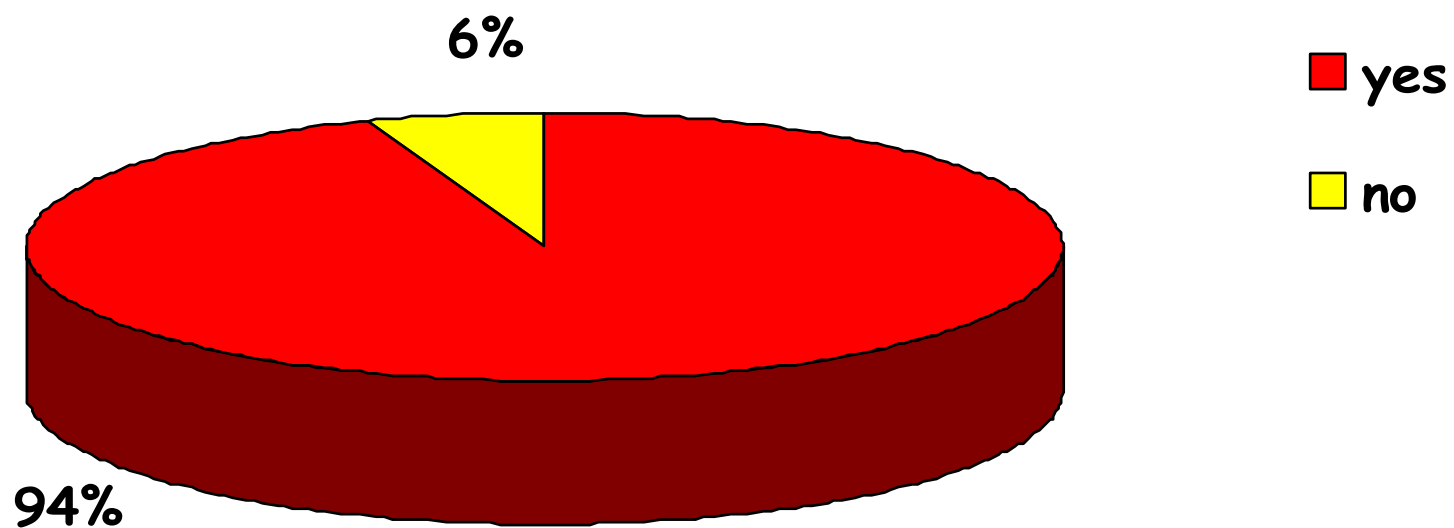
2008/09: The voice of the children in the schools

How much have you enjoyed participating in video-lessons together with children in the hospital?



2008/09: The voice of the children in the schools

Would you like to experience a video-lesson again?



Sorry: work still in progress!

Thank you for your attention

