



Bjelovar Mobile Library:

an example of collaboration between libraries and preschool institutions in developing early literacy

ABOUT US

Bjelovar - town in northwest Croatia
center of Bjelovar-bilogora county

The library was founded in 1832 as
a reading room *Casino Verein*

The Mobile library service since 1972.
48 stops / 1500 users / 18000 book collection

EU project *My Traveling Library*
worth a total of €248,183.69

the most numerous users are **children** of preschool and
primary school age



9 preschools
19 responses
4 directors
1 pedagogue
1 psychologist
13 educators



RESEARCH...

→ Surveying the opinions of users of the Mobile library Service in preschools

→ We asked what is the role of librarians in preschool institutions and what are the benefits of regular visits of the Mobile library to kindergartens.

Starting assumption:

→ Regular visits of the Mobile library to preschool institutions have a positive impact on the development of early literacy skills among kindergarten attendees and encourage parents and other family members to be more engaged in fostering early and family literacy development.

→ Survey questionnaire sent to 9 email addresses of preschool institutions collaborating with the Library.

RESULTS...

Which official documents do preschools base their work on for the development of early literacy?

**National Curriculum
for Early and
Preschool Education**

**Institution's
Curriculum**

**Annual Work Plan
and Program of the
Institution**

**Reading
Promotion
Program**

**UN Convention on
the Rights of the
Child**

Are there guidelines for preschools' collaboration with the local library in those documents?

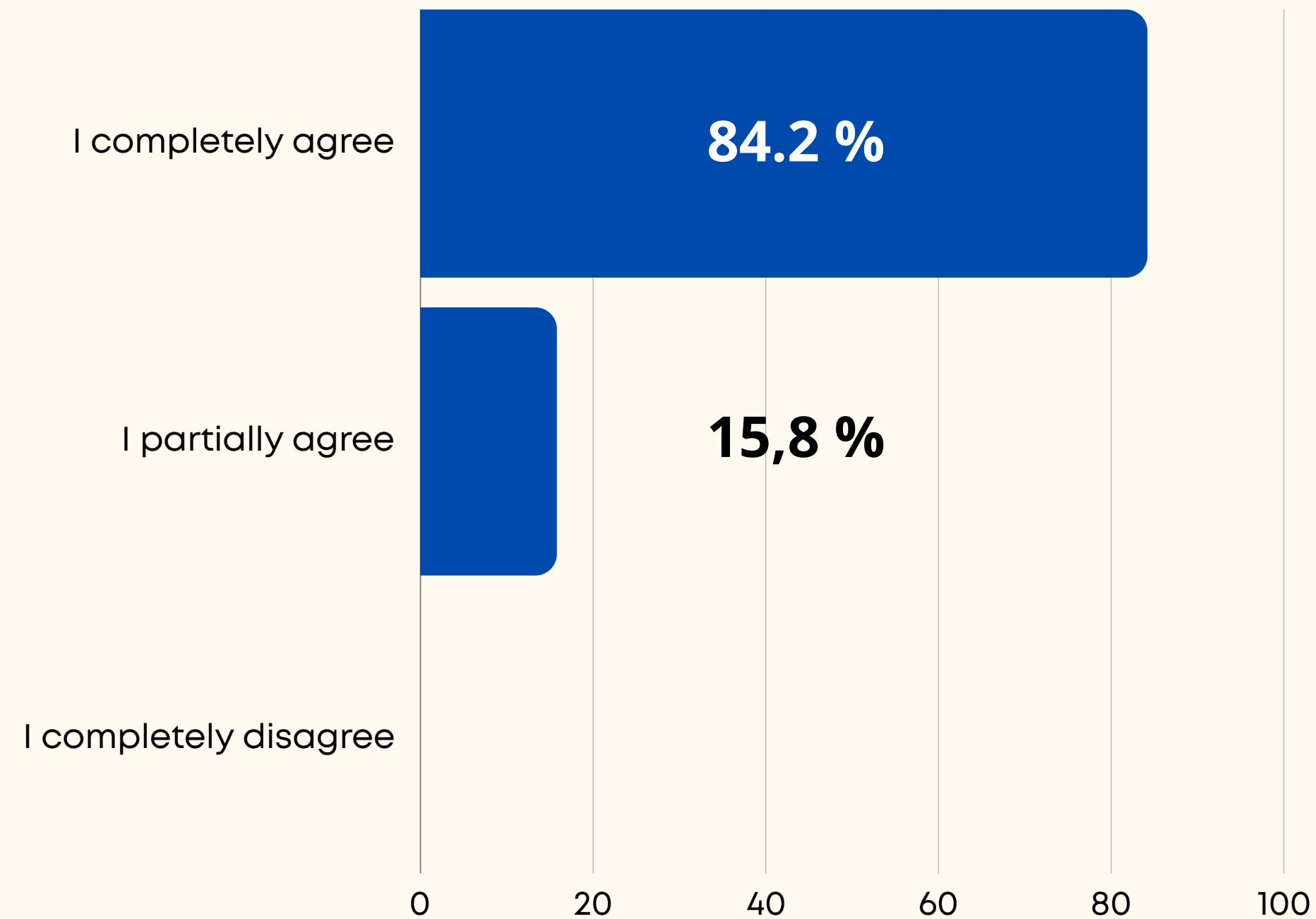
**Yes, the library is recognized as an important factor
in collaboration with the local community.**

**There are general guidelines for collaboration with
the local community, including the library.**

Not sure.

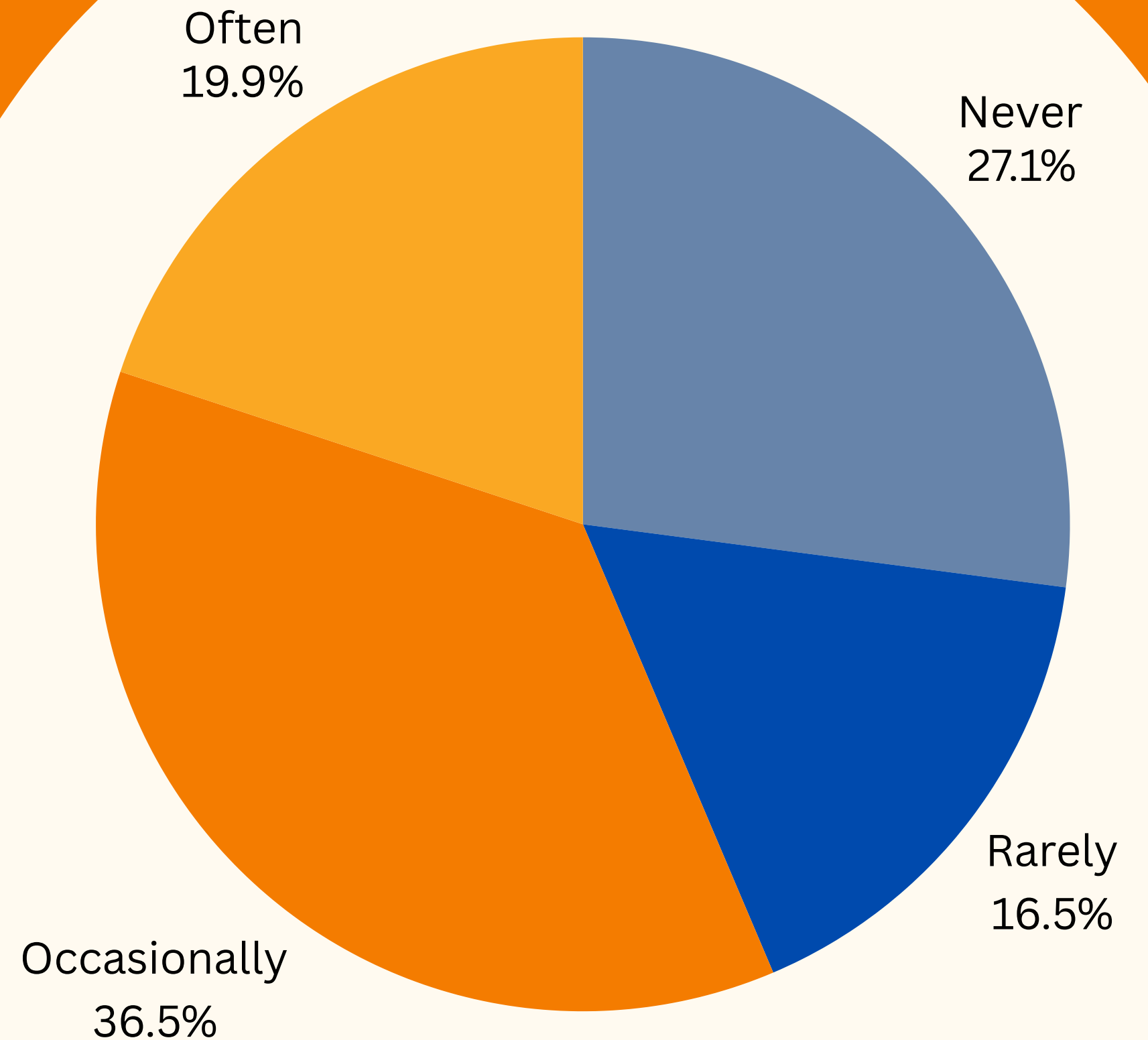
No.

Do you agree with the statement that librarians are competent professionals with whom educational practitioners should collaborate in fostering early literacy development in preschool-aged children?

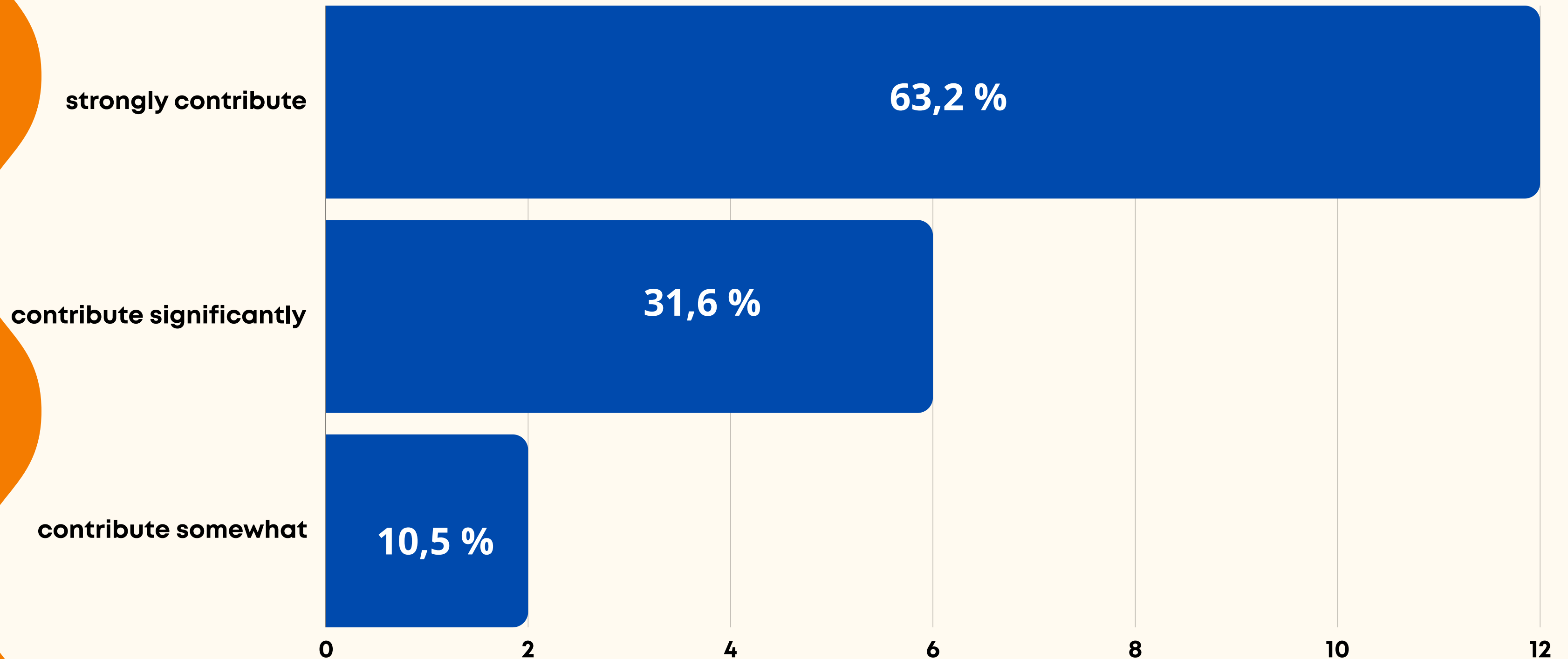


To what extent do you utilize the forms of collaboration offered by the library? (14 offered programs)

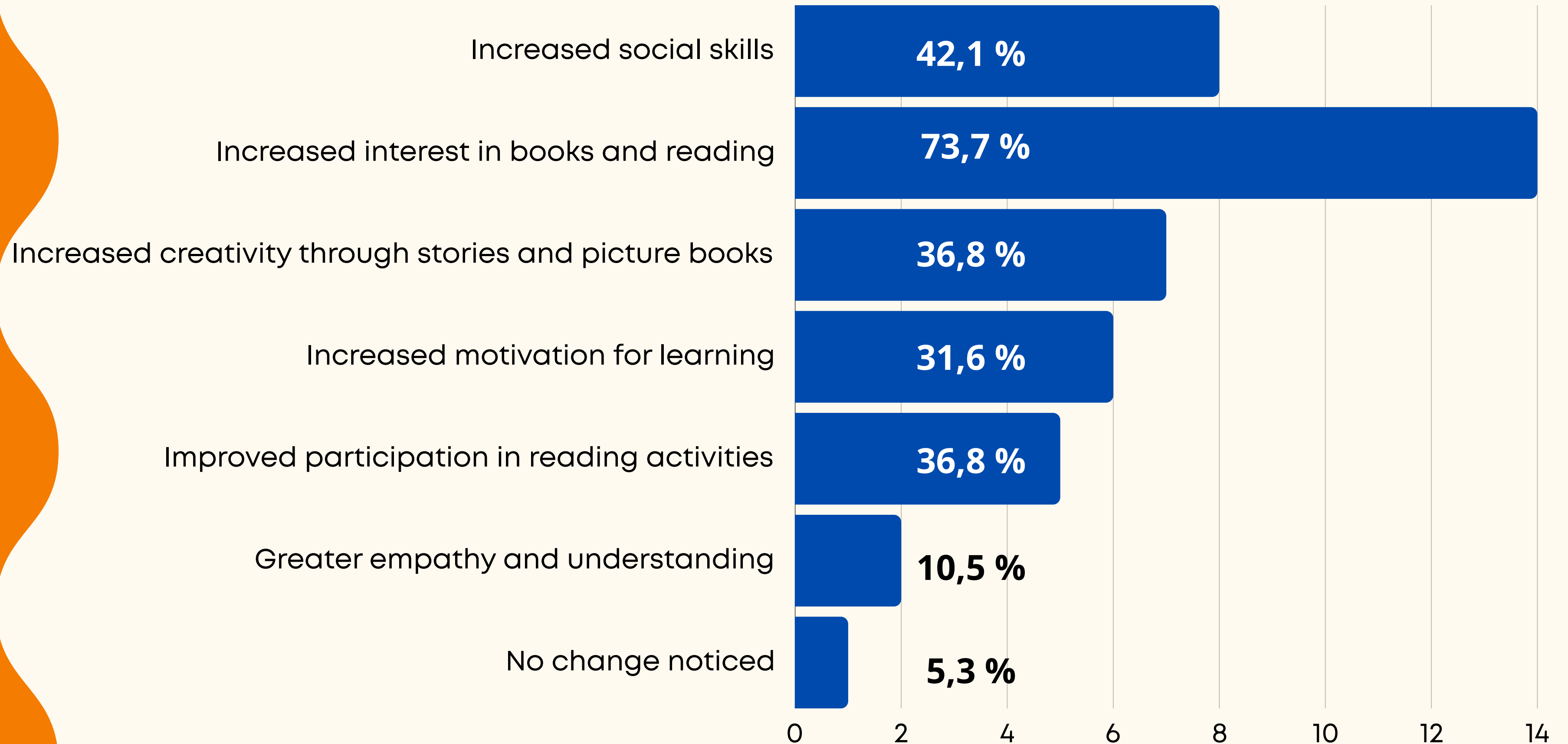
- * Miss, read mine too!
- * We learn together from 3 to 103!
- * Get to know your library!
- * Storytime - reading developmental stories
- * Bag Full of Books service
- * Exhibition: "I'm the Artist!"
- * Good Books List - Recommendations
- * Parent Meeting at the Library
- * Audio Stories from the Library
- * Participation in projects
- * Promotions and author meetings
- * Educational Lectures



Do you believe that regular visits of the Mobile library to preschools positively contribute to the preschool's efforts in promoting early literacy?



What positive changes have you noticed in the behavior or interests of children after the introduction of regular visits from the Mobile library?



Have you noticed **progress in the development of early literacy** in children after engaging in collaboration activities between the library and the preschool? If yes, could you describe these changes?



Increased interest in picture books.
Recognition of letters and reading simple sentences.



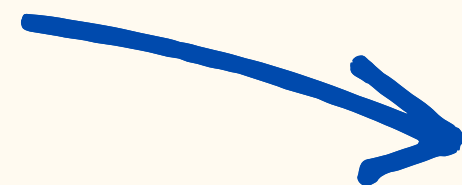
Children stay longer in reading activities and ask more to be read to.
Increased interest in new stories, retelling, expressing through puppetry, increased creativity.



Progress is noticed in the development of pre-writing skills and storytelling, in the area of phonological awareness, and a richer vocabulary.

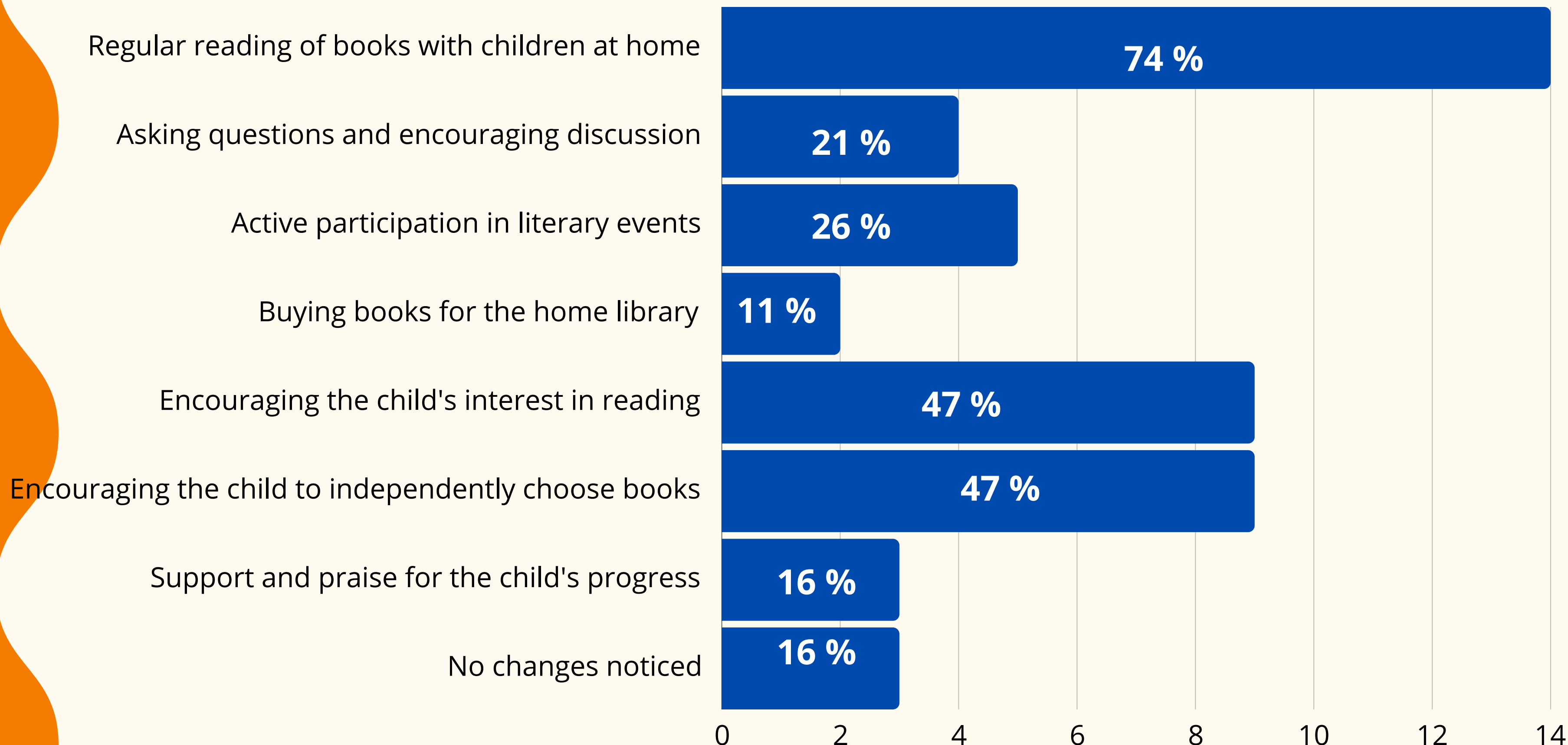


Children are more sensitized to written content.
There is a greater interest in flipping through pages and they often ask to be read to or "read" themselves.

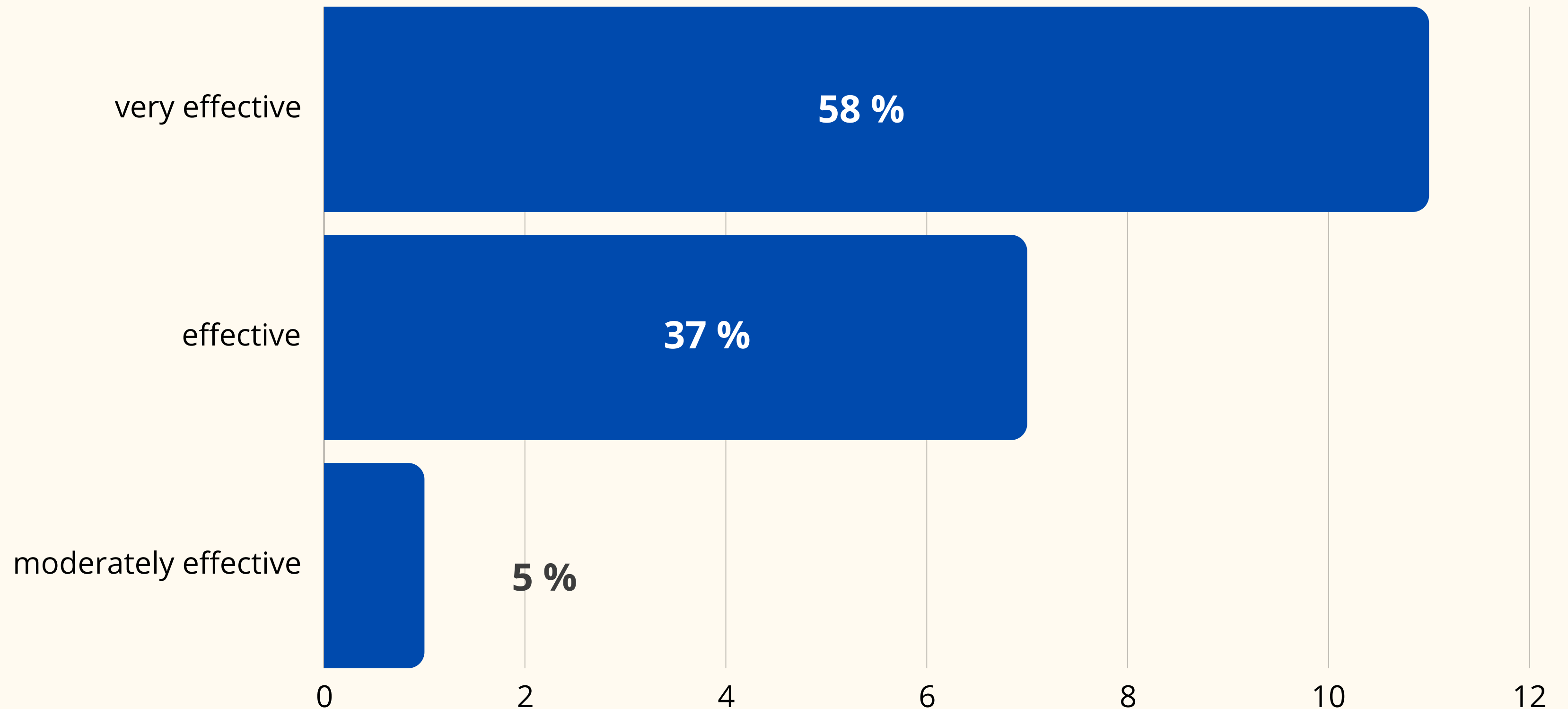


Increased interest in written text, they willingly go to the library and participate in offered activities, they spontaneously engage in pre-reading activities, they enjoy discussing the text they have read and practice storytelling skills, they listen to stories, and know how to find information.

Do you believe that the Mobile library visits have contributed to a more active involvement of parents in the development of early and family literacy? Please list some positive behaviors of parents that you have noticed!



**How do you rate the effectiveness of the collaboration program
with the Mobile library in promoting early literacy in your
preschool so far?**





What are the most significant **challenges** your preschool faces in collaboration with the **Mobile Library Service** of the "Petar Preradović" Public Library? Please list all obstacles or difficulties you have noticed in implementing the collaboration program or achieving its goals.



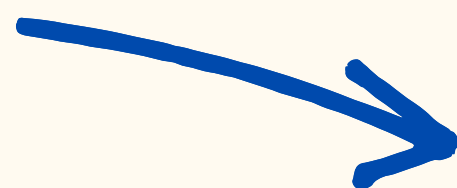
Collaboration with the Mobile library Service is excellent and well-established. So far, no obstacles or difficulties have arisen in the collaboration.



We can really agree on everything (regarding the time of arrival, borrowing books, etc.).



Due to the operating hours of the playground, children are not able to go to the Mobile library and choose picture books on their own. However, in excellent collaboration and agreement with the Mobile library staff, we regularly receive a full box of picture books.



The new Mobile library is beautiful, but it's significantly smaller, so it's a bit of a challenge to accommodate larger groups of children.

Insufficiently adequate record-keeping for tracking borrowing/returning of books.

What additional activities or resources would you like to see in collaboration with the Mobile Library Service to further support the development of early literacy in your preschool?



Having librarians from the Mobile library occasionally come into the group and introduce a book to the children.



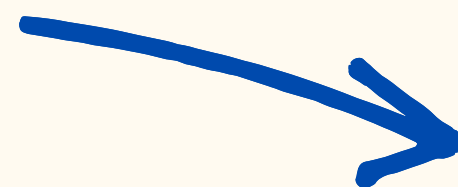
**Along with the arrival of the Mobile library, it would be great to occasionally organize reading a picture book in one group.
Reading a story in the Mobile library in a fairytale environment, under lamps, on cushions, in smaller groups.**



Workshops for children on significant dates, a reading club, bags of creative activities, knowledge bags.



**Collaboration is excellent, the staff is approachable and helpful.
Holding a play for children.**



**A greater number of books for the youngest children.
More professional literature.**

CONCLUSION



The library and preschool institutions are recognized as partners in the development of early and family literacy.



Enhance communication between the library, preschools, and families, and tailor programs to meet the needs of users.



Expand the mobile library network and include as many preschool institutions as possible in library services and programs.



QUESTIONS?

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THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION