

**To:** EECERA Board of Trustees

**From:** Sara Barros Araújo and Katherine Bussey

**Re:** Special Interest Group Birth to Three

Report on activities undertaken and planned 2017-2018

**Date:** August 2018

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## **I. Names and emails of convenors and current members of the SIG**

### **SIG Convenors:**

Sara Barros Araújo, Polytechnic Institute of Porto, Portugal ([saraujo@ese.ipp.pt](mailto:saraujo@ese.ipp.pt))

Katherine Bussey, Australian Catholic University, Australia ([kat.bussey@gmail.com](mailto:kat.bussey@gmail.com))

### **Current SIG members:**

Anne Greve, Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Norway

Carmen Dalli, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

Deborah Norris, Kansas City University, USA

Eleni Loizou, University of Cyprus, Cyprus

Ingrid Engdahl, Stockholm University, Sweden

Júlia Oliveira-Formosinho, Catholic University of Portugal, Portugal

Katherine Bussey, Australian Catholic University, Australia

Kaye Colmer, Gowrie SA, Australia

Maria Ferrer, University of Illes Balears, Spain

Mônica Apezatto Pinazza, University of São Paulo, Brazil

Niina Rutanen, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Paulo Fochi, UNISINOS, Brazil

Sandra Cheeseman, Macquarie University, Australia

Sara Barros Araújo, Polytechnic Institute of Porto, Portugal

Sheila Degotardi, Macquarie University, Australia

Verity Campbell-Barr, University of Plymouth, UK

## II. Activities undertaken by the SIG in past year

The activities of the SIG during the past year are summarised in the following points:

### (i) Full alignment with EECERA SIG membership requirements

During the past year, the SIG reached a full alignment with EECERA SIG requirements in regards to membership. As listed above, the SIG is now integrated by 16 formal members. Besides these, the SIG Birth to Three also integrates 27 non-formal members that accompany the SIG's activities. These researchers are not members of EECERA, and occasionally attend the conference, however, we acknowledge their contributions and expect that the collaboration with the SIG could constitute a motivation for a more formal participation in this network.

### (ii) Activities of the SIG during the 27<sup>th</sup> EECERA Conference

During the 27<sup>th</sup> EECERA Conference, held in University of Bologna, the following activities took place:

- Annual SIG members meeting, that allowed for sharing information on the SIG's current status, current research initiatives and prospective opportunities for collaboration, especially through a book proposal that could bring together international perspectives on the SIG's research foci;
- Participation on the annual SIG Convenors meeting. The SIG Birth to Three was represented by Sara Barros Araújo.
- Presentation of two self-organised symposia, composed as follows:

<b>Contributors to quality in infant-toddler early childhood programs? Perspectives from the inside, outside and in-between</b>   Chair: Sheila Degotardi
Infants' encounters with curriculum – the benediction as invitation to participate – Sandra Cheeseman
Influences on quality interactions – the outsider perspective – Deborah Norris
A sequential analysis of educator-infant conversations in early childhood centres: Exploring the learning potential of in-between – Sheila Degotardi

<b>Professional reflection and professional development for practitioners working with babies and under threes</b>   Chair: Peter Elfer
Developing close thoughtful attention to children and families in early years pedagogy: the contribution of work discussion groups Peter Elfer, Sue Robson, Sue Greenfield, Dilys Wilson & Antonia Zachariou
Professional preparation for working with toddlers: Examining the role and meaningfulness of pedagogical dimensions Sara Barros Araújo
Reconceptualizing infant teaching: The impact of a professional development program Eleni Loizou & Susan Recchia

### (iii) Preparation of the SIG's participation in EECERA Conference 2018

The preparation encompassed the organization of conditions for the annual SIG members meeting in Budapest, in August 18;

This year we have organised one self-organised symposium:

<b>The International Impact of Dr Emmi Pikler's work</b>   Chair Katherine Bussey
The influence of Pikler's conceptions of care on teachers in Aotearoa New Zealand Katherine Bussey
One Diaper At a Time: Responsive Interactions with Infants and Toddlers Deborah Laurin
Accompanying the free playing activity of infants and toddlers in the Pikler pedagogy - study in the Emmi Pikler Daycare Centre Eszter Csillag and Lilla Viktoria Markus

Besides this SOS, other members of the SIG will participate in the conference with individual paper presentations on issues that are related to the SIG's foci.

We have organised a special event for the SIG focused on Birth to Three in Budapest at the Pikler House. The Pikler House has been open in Budapest since 1946 and is internationally renowned for innovative research and practice focused on children aged birth to three. This event will be a tour of the Pikler daycare after hours and a lecture on the multi-professional nature of work at the Pikler House. Funds raised from this event will contribute to funding the Pikler archives. The Pikler archives hold research material and data collected for more than 70 years (majority in Hungarian, with some in French and German).

### **III. Planned SIG activity for the coming year**

The SIG will continue to pursue the intention of enlarging the network by recruiting new members. Other activities will encompass the preparation of the SIG's meeting in Budapest, the presentation of papers in EECERA Conference 2018, and the discussion around collaborative transnational projects and publications. The possibility of a book proposal was already discussed with João Formosinho, one of the Series Editor of EECERA Book Series "Towards an Ethical Praxis in Early Childhood" that showed aperture to this proposal. Several members and collaborators of the SIG showed interest in participating in it. In the coming year, efforts should be directed towards the materialization of this proposal.

### **IV. How SIG's activities fit with aims and ethos of EECERA**

In line with EECERA's main principles, the SIG Birth to Three provides an academic and rigorous forum at both a European and high-International level. We have a strong commitment to raising the profile of high quality research focusing on children aged birth to three years around the world through international collaborative efforts in a new but steadily growing field of research in early childhood education. This SIG pays special attention to research and practice addressing curriculum and pedagogy with children birth to three. As a forum, we intend to contribute to debates about the wellbeing and learning of children, families and practitioners, education/ training and qualifications of practitioners, issues of employment and professional learning and development in relation to professionals working with children aged birth to three years and their families.