

SIG Report

- **Special Interest Group***
Outdoor Play and Learning
- **SIG Convenors***
List names of convenors for this special interest group.
Ellen Beate H. Sandseter, Natalie Canning, Georgia Gessiou and Mehmet Mart
- **Number of SIG members***
129
- **Activities undertaken by the SIG since establishment***
The Outdoor Play and Learning SIG at EECERA has during the last decade been an important network for coordinating and disseminating international research on the international discourse children's outdoor play and learning, situated within the institutionalized ECEC context.
The members of the SIG have participated in discussions and scientific development during the SIG's annual meetings, web-based arenas and through numerous of self-organized symposia and presentations at the annual EECERA conference.
- **Report on SIG Activities this past year***
Please include details on: 1. Publications: 2. Symposia at last EECERA conference 3. Proposed Initiatives 4. Number of members

1. Publications (a selection from the convenors)

Canning, N. (2020) Children's empowerment in play. Oxon: Routledge and TACTYC

Mart, M., Simsar, A., & Uyanik, G. (2022). The Playground Perception of Syrian Refugee Children. *Child Indicators Research*, 15(1), 349–372. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12187-021-09869-2>

Mart, M., & Waite, S. (2021). Degrees of freedom: reflections on perceived barriers to outdoor learning practice for early education in England and Turkey. *Early Years*, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09575146.2021.2012131>

Sando, O.J., Kleppe, R. & Sandseter, E.B.H. Risky Play and Children's Well-Being, Involvement and Physical Activity. *Child Ind Res* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12187-021-09804-5>

Waters, J (2022) (Ed.) Introduction to Play. Sage: London

Waters, J. & MacDonald, N. (2020) The value of using children's learning experiences to target professional learning in early years pre-school staff: the experience of one local authority in Wales. *Early Years: an international research journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09575146.2020.1742666>

2. Symposia at last EECERA conference

At the online EECERA conference in 2021 we organised 1 symposia with 4 participants from the Outdoor play and Learning SIG.

3. Proposed Initiatives

Special issue Journal:

The SIG is organizing a special issue of Outdoor Play and Learning in the Journal of Childhood, Education and Society entitled: **Children's Experiences Outdoors: Education and Community Contexts**

Thematic Issue Editor(s):

- Helen Little, Ph.D., Macquarie University, Australia
- Mehmet Mart, Ph.D., Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
- Helen Bilton, Ph.D., University of Reading, England
- Michaela Kadury-Slezak, Ph.D., Levinsky College of Education, Israel

Scholars are invited to submit proposals that are between 400 and 500 words. Please email these to: jces.editorial@gmail.com and include 'JCES Special Issue 'Children's Experiences Outdoors' in the 'subject' box of your email. The authors of selected proposals will be invited to submit a full paper, which will undergo a double anonymous peer review by the editorial board members and external reviewers.

Key Dates:

- **October 15, 2022:** Submit a proposal of no more than 500 words to the following email address jces.editorial@gmail.com
- **December 1, 2022:** Abstract proposal decision sent to author/s
- **March 1, 2023:** First full paper submission due for review via JCES [submission portal](#).
- **October 2023:** Anticipated date for publication

International Book:

The SIG has submitted an International book proposal to EECERA/Routledge entitled: Learning and playing outdoors: questions of pedagogy, purpose and intention. We hope to publish this text in 2023.

Supporting PhD students:

The OPL SIG receives royalties from the SAGE International Handbook of Outdoor Play and Learning, developed by the SIG's members, to be used for SIG activities. We intend to use the money to support PhD-students who are members of the SIG with EECERA membership and the conference fee. Please email the convenors if you wish to apply for this funding.

E-mail list and becoming a new member of the SIG:

A sign-in form for new members has been created to make it easier for the convenors to have control of the member list and e-mailing list. The link to the form is found on the SIG's page on the EECERA webpage <https://www.eecera.org/sigs/outdoor-play-and-learning/> (scroll to the bottom), or directly through this link: <http://eepurl.com/c8xYQn>. This is now the way to become a member of the SIG.

Members meeting at the 2021 EECERA conference:

The meeting was held online on Thursday 2nd September 2021, 2-3pm BST. 26 members and 3 convenors participated.

4. Number of members:

This year the Outdoor Play and Learning Special Interest Group's total number members is 129. The number of paid EECERA members is unknown.

- **How SIG activities fit with aims and ethos of EECERA***

The SIG Outdoor Play and Learning has in the recent decade been an emerging field of interest in international research and practice in early childhood education. Whilst in some countries, especially in Scandinavia, outdoor environments have long been established as crucial sites for learning, in others such as within the UK, the need to provide children with regular outdoor experience has only recently been given more emphasis in policy and practice. This change is due in part to concerns about the restriction of opportunities for outdoor play over the last three generations due to a rise in traffic, greater institutionalization of childhood, and parents' safety concerns. At the same time, access to the outdoors for children has become limited with far greater use now of adult controlled and structured space. However, a clear pedagogy for the use of the outdoors as a site for learning has not been established and there has been relatively little research on what happens in outdoor environments.

The Outdoor Play and Learning SIG at EECERA is well placed to coordinate and disseminate international research on the international discourse in this emerging field. It aims to:

- create a space for shared thinking about play and learning in outdoor spaces;
- develop synergies between participants from a wide range of professional and scientific contexts;
- provide an academic and rigorous forum at European and international levels to develop and disseminate high-quality research on outdoor play and learning.

- **Networking, future plans and links to other institutions***

Planned publications

Edited textbook - Learning and playing outdoors: questions of pedagogy, purpose and intention
Special Issue in Journal of Childhood, Education, Society: Children's Experiences Outdoors: Education and Community Contexts.

Symposiums at the 2022 EECERA conference:

At the EECERA conference in Glasgow, UK one self-organized symposia from the Outdoor play and Learning SIG, including 3 presentations have been submitted to the conference committee. Two independent papers have also been submitted.