

SIG Report

Special Interest Group

Birth to Three

SIG Convenors

Katherine Bussey & Sara de Barros Araújo

Number of SIG members

52

Activities undertaken by the SIG since establishment

The Birth to Three SIG has reached full alignment with EECERA SIG requirements in regards to membership. As listed above, the SIG is integrated by formal members. Besides these, the SIG Birth to Three also integrates several international 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. We meet each annually at each EECERA Conference and last year when the conference was unable to go ahead due to the global pandemic.

Report on SIG Activities this past year

During 2020 when the ECERA conference was unable to take place:

- We had our annual SIG members online in 2020 via zoom, this allowed for sharing information on the situation of COVID-19 in 12 countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Portugal, Brazil, UK, Ireland, Spain, Cyprus, and Greece). Over 20 members, including some new participants attended two meetings held at different times to accommodate the time zones of more members. We shared current research initiatives and prospective opportunities for collaboration. This led to an international edited book collaboration between members of the SIG from Australia and South Africa who had previously not met and worked together. This book has been accepted for publication by Routledge, and while this book is not focused on Birth to Three, it remains focused on early childhood education and care. This book is about the International Experiences of Early Childhood Education and Care during a Global Pandemic.

(iii) Preparation of the SIG's participation in EECERA's first online Festival 2021

The preparation encompassed the organization of conditions for the annual Birth to Three SIG members meeting in September online. We have communicated with members of the SIG well in advance of this time and hope to meet many people at the SIG meeting next week.

We have 52 members!

How SIG 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 of children aged birth to three. As a forum, we contribute to debates about the wellbeing and learning for children, families and practitioners, education/ training and qualifications of practitioners who work with children aged birth to three years, issues of employment and professional learning and

development in relation to professionals working with children aged birth to three years and their families.

Networking, future plans and links to other institutions

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 Lisbon, the presentation of papers in EECERA Conference 2022, 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.

- I have read the privacy policy and agree