



## Early Childhood

### 2022-2023 Executive summary

#### Overview

The Early Childhood SIG has been busy welcoming and recruiting new members this year. John & Lynsey welcomed Bea, Sophia, Pam, Fiona, Charlotte, Arunab and Karen to the team. After forming a new group, the SIG members agreed that it was a priority for the year to:

**Expand** - To create a wider-reaching digital presence and network, with key members taking on different platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**Design** - To design a concept for regular online sessions with the EC community.


**Organise** - To organise an EC conference for November 2023.

#### for 2022-2023

- Research the community needs and plan sessions and a conference around this research.
- Continue building an online presence and interactive sessions to support the EC community.
- Keep promoting high-quality and developmentally appropriate early childhood education within our community.

#### Social Media

This year, we have been working on growing our audience through regular contact via the below SM channels. Our Followers now stand at

 ECIS Early Childhood Education	899
 Ecis_ey	134
 ECIS EC SIG @ec_sig	147

Specific SIG members have taken over the social media accounts, and all members have committed to actively sharing our material in their circles and via linked in. The SIG aims to attract new followers and expand Sig's impact within the community. Posts have become weekly, and the SIG continue to try to reach a more global audience by connecting with others through these channels.

## Collaboration



### ECIS EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

#### OUR PURPOSE

The early childhood special interest group aims to transform practice through professional learning opportunities that feature leading practice and are evidence-led; a further goal is, where appropriate, to create research and research opportunities around particular problems of practice.

#### OUR MISSION

We, the ECIS EC Special Interest Group, are a group of volunteers with diverse experience in early childhood education. We are committed to empowering EC educators in our international community to develop themselves professionally and positively impact young learners' lives. We come together throughout the year to discuss and debate hot topics in EC and design our early childhood conferences, webinars and discussion groups. We know that all EC teachers are researchers! Therefore, we plan conferences where EC teachers learn from each other and provide opportunities for our EC community to continue their learning journey by keeping up to date with recent developments and research in our field.

#### OUR VALUES

- Advocating for children's right to play
- Committing to forging international and supportive professional relationships
- Promoting learner agency and high-quality learning environments
- Encouraging innovative educational methods and impactful learning
- Promoting well-being and mindfulness for educators and children

#### OUR NEXT EVENT



Call for Proposals: Early Childhood Conference 2023: 24-25 November  
24 November @ 08:00 - 25 November @ 17:00 GMT

#### MEET THE COMMITTEE



#### The website:

Once the new members were selected, the SIG began creating a website page, considering their vision and mission for the future.

#### Online events:

The EC SIG worked together to plan regular online sessions with the community.

The name - Connect & Converse was decided upon, and to ensure longevity, these sessions are planned around prominent umbrella themes. The SIGs research conducted via Padlets found that the EC community were primarily concerned with the 'prime areas' of development after covid, seeing children's development in these areas as a concern.

- Communication, language and literacy skills
- Personal, social, and emotional development, well-being, involvement and inclusion

- Physical development

The Sig decided to begin with a series of sessions to spotlight specific areas of language and literacy. The following sessions were planned, each containing a 30min webinar, followed by breakout rooms supported by guiding questions.

### The events:

#### Foundations for Life

- ▶ Early Childhood Special Interest Group: Foundations for life

#### Phonics

- ▶ ECIS Early Childhood SIG: Connect and Converse - Phonics

#### Reading

- ▶ Early Childhood: Connect and Converse: A Spotlight on Engaging Emerging Read...

#### Speaking and listening

- ▶ Early Childhood Special Interest Group: A Spotlight on Supporting Speech and La...

#### Writing

- ▶ Early Childhood Connect & Converse: Elevating Emergent Writing


#### Literacy in the first 1000 days

In addition, follow-up posters were created to share over the summer months to keep the momentum going and allow the community to reflect and extend their learning. See the example below:


ECIS CONNECT & CONVERSE

## A SPOTLIGHT ON PHONICS


*Dive deeper into phonics, with something to read, something to listen too, something to watch and something to wonder.*




[Centering Multilingual Learners in Early Literacy Instruction](#)



<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5qex05B38jS1fXsmMyJYgg>




[Phonics tips](#)



[How can we make phonics more active?](#)

*Read, listen, watch, think & keep on learning*



All online sessions were well attended, and a group of regular participants have begun to attend.

## Conference-

The Sig also collaborated to create a conference theme and connecting tracks. The concept was inspired by the reformation of the SIG and the need for EY educators to



embrace the joy of teaching again after the challenging last few years. The title, *Rise up: Elevating and Empowering the Joy of early childhood learning*, was chosen to highlight the concept and the following themes were presented in the call for proposals.

- The joy of wonder
- Connecting to learning
- Powerful places
- Wellbeing and belonging

The 2023 Early Childhood Conference Theme invites educators to reconnect and relight the early year's fire. The aim is to encourage educators to bring their stories, experiences and good practice; together, so we can learn to empower and enrich the lives of our youngest learners. The conference will allow us to reflect, rethink and explore how our programs, environments and relationships can be more responsive, joyful and impactful.