

COLLABORATIVE FOR

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

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.

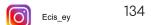
for 2022-2023

- 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







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







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

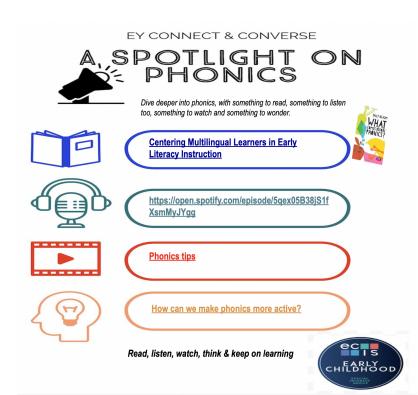
Early Childhood Special Interest Group: A Spotlight on Supporting Speech and La...

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:



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.