

Minutes of the SIG meeting of the EECERA SIG Mathematics Birth to Eight Years

on Monday, 25th August 2025, 12:30-14:30 CEST.

The SIG meeting took place in Bratislava with an option to join online.

Participants in the room: Ceren Kiliç, Katarína Žilková, Elena Severina, Beyza Hamamcı, Esther Eio, Bob Perry, Agatha Lebethe, Maire Tuul, and Oliver Thiel

Online participants: Anette Stavseth Furnes, Cath Gripton, Chrystalla Papademetri, Elizabeth Carruthers, Jeanette Bregman, Linda Amrar, Signe Marie Hanssen, Magni Hope Lossius, and Maulfry Worthington

Agenda:

- Welcome
Oliver welcomed everyone; all participants introduced themselves
- Latest news about our book
Our upcoming book, titled “Play and Mathematics in Early Childhood Education : Perspectives and Practices across Countries and Cultures,” has been approved by EECERA and Taylor & Francis. It will have 11 chapters:

INTRODUCTION

- Setting the Stage for Mathematics and Play in Early Childhood Education – Elizabeth and Oliver

CHILDREN’S PLAY

- Reframing children’s mathematics in play. Perspectives from England and Greece – Maria and Elizabeth
- Children’s first-time exploration of a coding toy with teachers: supporting mathematical experiences – Francesca, Elin, and Maire
- ‘It will probably be good.’ Emergent Stochastics in Children’s Outdoor Play – Zoi, Oliver, and Lucía
- Mathematical Play out of doors in the UK and USA: spatiality, topology, physics and mathematical practice arising from contextual events – Mandy and LeaAnn
- Play, Blocks, and Mathematics: Unveiling Deep Learning Opportunities in Early Childhood – Chrystalla, Annerieke, et al.

PRACTITIONER’S REFLECTIONS

- Mathematical learning during pretend play: A Comparative Study in Catalonia and Norway – Judith, Mequè, and Annette
- Exploring how focus group discussions can support ECEC teachers’ awareness of mathematical content in children’s play – voices from Italy and Sweden – Benita, Ester, and Laura
- Practitioners’ perspectives on mathematics in young children’s play – Cath, Anne, et al.

- 'Play' and 'Mathematics' as concepts in preservice ECEC teachers' reflections – Marianna, Magni, et al.

CONCLUSION

- *Synthesising Insights and Paving the Way Forward (preliminary title)* – Chrystalla

All but the last chapter are finalised. We discussed whether to keep the country summaries in the book because one reviewer commented they are not needed. The participants argued that country information must be incorporated into the chapters if the summary is omitted. This would be difficult. They suggested replacing the text with a table that provides an overview of the different systems.

- Election of a new co-convener

By acclamation, the SIG elected Cath Gripton from the University of Nottingham, UK, email: catherine.gripton@nottingham.ac.uk, as the SIG's new co-convener.

- Ideas for new projects

We brainstormed relevant topics: STE(A)M, arts & creativity (as part of STEAM or a separate topic), AI, mathematics anxiety, and a neuropsychological perspective on mathematics learning. We could discuss what mathematics is – in school, in ECEC, for parents, for children, and for stakeholders. What are parents', children's and stakeholders' expectations when it comes to mathematics in ECEC? Esther possesses tools for early mathematics learning from Singapore. She wishes to share and discuss these tools, but transferring them to different contexts might prove challenging due to cultural differences.

Furthermore, we discussed the following steps: We will have self-organised symposia at the next conference. We might work on a new Special Issue of the EECERJ or a new book project. A Special Issue is easier, but a book project would promote more collaboration. We agreed that we would like to begin joint research projects. **Elena will create a Padlet** to share research interests and identify potential partners. Maire has a questionnaire about STEAM.

Additionally, we could initiate an EU blended learning project to develop and implement online courses for ECEC teacher educators across countries.

- Any other business

We invited participants to the SIG's self-organised symposium "Play and Mathematics in Norwegian Early Childhood Education," and Beyza and Agatha invited us to their symposium "Early Maths Learning."

Oliver Thiel

Oliver Thiel on 2 September 2025