

Outdoor Play and Learning Special Interest Group

EECERA

SIG convenors: (names and e-mails)

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SIG members: (names and e-mails)

We currently have 157 members on our mailing list.

1. Aim of the SIG:

The Outdoor Play and Learning SIG provides an academic and rigorous forum at European and international level to develop and disseminate high quality research on outdoor play and learning. It aims to coordinate and disseminate international research on the international discourse in this emerging field. It intends to create a space for shared thinking and for creating synergies between participants from a wide range of professional and scientific contexts to encourage a clearer articulation and understanding of early childhood pedagogy, policy and practice in relation to outdoor play and learning.

2. Activities 2023-2024:

Publications, meetings, networking, cross-national collaboration, symposiums etc.

- 2.1 The SIG published an edited book through the EECERA series in conjunction with Routledge focusing on pedagogy in outdoor play. Chapters were written by SIG members from across the world, bringing to life the different outdoor play experiences of children and the different pedagogic approaches to play and learning in the outdoor environment.

Mart, M, Gessiou, G and Waters-Davies, J (2024) (Eds.) Exploring pedagogy of learning and playing outdoors: Questions of purpose and intention. London: Routledge and EECERA <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003530480>

- 2.2 Members of the SIG edited a Special Issue focusing on children's outdoor experiences in the Journal of Childhood Education and Society (JCES). It was a collaborative effort from all participating members with interesting contributions from around the world.

Journal of Childhood Education and Society (JCES)
Children's Experiences Outdoors: Education and Community Contexts
Volume 4, Number 3, October 2023
<https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/v8aLCo2vOqflRj3lNf1eAM7?domain=j-ces.com>

- 2.3 Each year the SIG organizes face to face meetings at the EECERA conference and an online meeting just before, usually at the beginning of August. At each EECERA conference the Outdoor Play and Learning SIG organize symposiums, grouping relevant papers for members to share their research and interests.
- 2.4 SIG members are also part of other organizations, committees and research networks. These include the German Ethics Network, Children's Research Centre, Outdoor Play Networks, Participatory Methods Network, Play, Learning and Development Network, Adventure Play Group to name a few.

3. Planned activities:

Publications, meetings, networking, cross-national collaboration, symposiums etc.

- 3.1 The SIG will continue to organize face to face and online meetings around the EECERA 2025. At least one member of the convenors will attend the EECERA conference each year and facilitate the self organized symposium research and subsequent discussion.
- 3.2 The SIG is open to any members suggestions for further discussion and research into Outdoor Play and Learning in 2025/26.

4. Links and networks established with other institutions and organizations

As above in 2.4.

5. How do SIG's activities fit with the aims and ethos of EECERA:

- 5.1 The SIG aligns with EECERA's ethos to promote and disseminate multidisciplinary research on early childhood education and its applications to policy and practice. In this case the SIG focuses on all aspects of children's Outdoor Play and Learning. In the same way as EECERA, the SIG also fosters international collaboration, cross-national networking, and themed publications.