

Young Children’s Perspectives SIG Trustees’ Report: June 2026

To: EECERA Board of Trustees

From: Prof Jane Murray and Dr Alison Moore

Re: Special Interest Group – Young Children’s Perspectives (YCP)

Report on membership, activities undertaken and planned activities.

(i) YCP SIG Co- Convenors & Members

YCP SIG Co-Convenors:

- Dr Alison Moore – alison.moore@ucc.ie
- Professor Jane Murray - jane.murray@northampton.ac.uk

YCP SIG Members:

We have 130 current members in the EECERA Young Children’s Perspectives (June 2026).

Erna Adalstein	Iceland	Catherine Kaplun	Australia
Maarit Alasuutari	Finland	Eleni Katsadia	Greece
Túgba Aladás	Turkey	Zenna Kingdon	England
Kelly Baird	Australia	Susanne Klaar	Sweden
Benedicte Bernstorff	Denmark	Kristina Konstantoni	Scotland
Cathleen Bethke	Germany	Haitmut Kupfer	Germany
Annick Biesmans	Belgium	Marja-Leena Laakso	Finland
Angeliki Bitou	Greece	Penny Lawrence	England
Charmaine Bonello	Malta	Marta Licardo	Slovenia
Linda Bosman	South Africa	Marie Linde	Germany
Aurelia Elena Bot	Italy	Yvonne Liu	Taiwan
Fiona Boylan	Australia	Lena O Magnusson	Sweden
Anette Boye Koch	Denmark	Fiona Mayne	Australia
Sigrid Brogaard Clausen	England	Valentina Mazzoni	Italy
Clare Britt	Australia	Kate McAnelly	New Zealand
Ayça Büyükçınar	Turkey	Catherine Meehan	England
Petra Bueker	Germany	Valentina Montu	Italy
Liz Chesworth	England	Alison Moore	Ireland
Baizhen Ciren	Norway	Luigina Mortari	Italy
Alison Clark	England	Jane Murray	England
Rahime Cobaneglu	Turkey	Beverley Nightingale	England
Anna Rose Codd	Ireland	Gesine Nebe	Germany
Aline Cole-Albäck	England	Solveig Nordtomme	Norway
Emma Cooke	Australia	Jana Ogrodowski	Germany
Kate Cowan	UK	Sara M Olatsdottir	Iceland
Triona Cummins	Germany	Ioanna Palaiologou	England
Yael Dayan	Israel	Hanna Palmer	Israel
Beatrice Del Grosso	Italy	Jane Payler	England
Laura Detlefson	Denmark	Bob Perry	Australia
Melanie Dickerson	Australia	Porunn Helga Porvaldsdottir	Iceland

Sue Dockett	Australia	Raija Raittila	Finland
Margarte Donoghlie	Ireland	Tanya Richardson	England
Elizabeth Dunphy	Ireland	Sue Robson	England
Jóhanna Einarsdóttir	Iceland	Amanda Roscoe	Australia
Poppie Ephgrave	UK	Liz Rouse	England
Alma Fleet	Australia	Pablo Rupin	Chile
Rosie Flewitt	England	Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson	Sweden
Maria Assuncao Folque	Portugal	Nora Saneka	UniSA
Ilaria Folci	Italy	Persille Schwartz	Denmark
Michael Gaffney	New Zealand	Sole Scuderi	UK
Sue Gascoyne	England	Elena Severina	Norway
Luca Ghirotto	Italy	Eija Sevon	Finland
Claudia Gluschkof	Israel	Linda Shaw	England
Colette Gray	Northern Ireland	Naseema Shaik	South Africa
Georgia Gressiou	Greece	Miyeshi Shiota	Japan
Cath Gripton	UK	Igor Shiyan	Russia
Bin Guo	UK	Halldor D. Sigurdardottir	Iceland
Liru S. Hansen	Denmark	Helen Simmons	England
Deborah Harcourt	Australia	Rianne H. Slingerland	Denmark
Shelly-Ann Harper	Eastern Caribbean	Madonna Stinson	Australia
Linda Harrison	Australia	Jodi Strelasky	Canada
Nouf Hassanin	South Africa	Bárbara Tadeu	Portugal
Jacqueline Hayden	Australia	Clodie Tal	Israel
Julia Hoeke	Germany	Sarah Te One	New Zealand
Birgit Huepping	Germany	Anja Tertoolen	Netherlands
Christine Howitt	Australia	Sigal Tish	Israel
Carmen Huser	Germany	Patrizia Tortella	Italy
Anna Iakshina	Russia	Rabia Filik Uyanik	Turkey
Takako Ishikura	Japan	Katrin Velten	Germany
Daniela Jadue Roa	Chile	Helena Vidisdottir	Iceland
Eva Johansson	Sweden	Tim Waller	England
Lesley Jones	Australia	Susanne Westman	Sweden
Michaela Kadury-Slezak	Israel	Zeta Williams-Brown	UK
Mari Kaisa	Finland	Lynne Zhang	China
Maria Kampeza	Greece	Erika Zimmer-Brandt	Denmark

(ii) Activities undertaken by the SIG and its members in past year:

Meetings:

A SIG meeting took place on 11th June 2025, which included research and publication updates from members, information about the EECERA Conference 2025 and a fascinating presentation from YCP SIG member Dr Lorna Arnott about the ‘Toddlers, Tech and Talk’ research project.

Because Jane and Alison could not attend EECERA Conference 2025, they invited other YCP SIG members who were able to attend to hold the conference meeting. Unfortunately, as no members volunteered to do so, there was no YCP SIG meeting at EECERA Conference 2025.

YCP SIG Sub-Groups:

In May 2025, Alison and Jane wrote to members who had indicated in the membership survey that they would like to create YCP SIG sub-groups to develop specific aspects of the SIG’s work in line with the YCP SIG aims. This was to enable members who wanted to be in one or more sub-groups in to contact each other and meet up to plan and begin activities.

The sub-groups are:

- YCP SIG Journal Special Issue
- Regional online YCP SIG meetings (Africa, North Europe, East Asia)
- YCP SIG Research funding proposal
- YCP SIG Book proposal
- A new workstream (different from the above)

The purpose of the sub-groups is to distribute the SIG leadership and activity more widely among the members. In May 2026, sub-group members were invited to share progress and future plans and these updates will be an agenda item at the YCP SIG meeting at EECERA Conference 2026.

YCP News Padlet

Members were invited to share their 2025-26 news about publications, research, sub-groups, and other activity related to young children's perspectives via a padlet. Contributions included...

- From Benedicte Bernsdorff: *'I have been participating in a Nordic collaboration about children's rights and participation to this book by Sonanader, A.; Petersen, M. & Wickenberg, P. (ed.) (2026). Building a Sustainable Society Through Child Participation. Nordic Research and Practical Application. Springer, where I contributed with Chapter 4 "Children's Initial Expectations and Experiences of Participation in Danish Early Childhood Education and Care Settings". DOI 10.1007/978-3-032-04535-5_4'*
- From Naseema Shaik: *'I have a recent publication Shaik, Naseema 2026. I'm smart already, I don't need my teacher to make me smart. Children's voices for the co-construction of a children's participatory rights framework for early childhood education, South Africa. International Journal of Qualitative Studies. DOI 25.10.1177/16094069251412247'*
- From Jane Murray: *'Routledge has accepted my proposal for an edited book: 'Including Young Children and Creating Inclusive Communities: Global Insights on Inclusion in Early Childhood'. The book will highlight contemporary international research evidence to illuminate ways that young children across the World experience marginalisation or inclusion in diverse situations and contexts. It will explore the far-reaching consequences of those experiences and will argue that future social cohesion is predicated on the authentic inclusion of young children in our communities today. The book will be an international collection will include chapters by authors from Sweden, USA, Portugal and the Caribbean who are not YCP SIG members, as well as some chapters authored by YCP SIG members: Alma Fleet (Australia), Bin Guo & Poppie Ephgrave (UK), Naseema Shaik (South Africa).*

- **NEWSLETTER:**

The YCP SIG Co-Convenors sent newsletters to members in June 2025 and May 2026.

August 2024, providing updates and inviting contributions to the YCP SIG news padlet, so that members could share their news.

(iii) SIG activity planned for the future

- To hold two general YCP SIG meetings in addition to the YCP SIG annual conference meeting 2026 which is planned to be a hybrid meeting.
- To continue the work of the YCP SIG sub-groups in developing Journal Special Issues, Research Funding, Books, Regional YCP SIG Networks & a New Workstream group, in line with the YCP SIG aims.
- To invite YCP SIG members to contribute to the 2026-27 news padlet their news about publications, research, sub-groups, and other activity related to young children's perspectives

(iv) Links and networks established with other institutions and organisations

- YCP SIG members have links with OMEP, ISSA and TACTYC and Taylor and Francis.

(iv) How the YCP SIG's activities fit with the aims and ethos of EECERA:

YCP SIG activities focus on...

- Generating critical reflection on children's perspectives and children's rights
- Supporting and encouraging cross-national perspectives on seeking children's perspectives
- Supporting SIG members' research in a collaborative and cooperative manner
- Sharing innovative and reflexive research on children's perspectives and children's rights.

In this way, the YCP SIG...

- Promotes and disseminates multi-disciplinary research on early childhood and its applications to policy and practice
- Seeks to sustain and develop the rich tradition of European early childhood thought in a context of appreciation for other equally rich early childhood traditions and concepts across the World
- Encourages the exploration of new paradigms, methodologies, concepts and applications in the ever-changing context of early childhood studies.
