

Habermass prize nominations process 2026

EECERA Guidance for Nominators

Guidance for Nominators and Nominees

Purpose

This document has been developed by EECERA to support members preparing nominations for consideration under the Habermass Prize for Early Education.

The Habermass nomination form provides an opportunity to describe the achievement, project, programme, initiative, research, service, or contribution being nominated.

The following guidance is intended to help nominators present their work clearly and concisely. It does not constitute assessment criteria and is not intended as a checklist of requirements. Rather, it highlights the types of information that may help the EECERA selection committee and, subsequently, the Habermass Prize Committee understand the significance, impact, and contribution of the nominated work.

Nominators are not expected to address every point but should draw on those most relevant to the contribution and category concerned.

Guidance for All Nominations

When preparing a nomination, you may wish to consider:

- What is the contribution, achievement, project, programme, initiative, research, service, or body of work being recognised?
- Why is this contribution significant?
- What difference has it made to children, families, educators, settings, communities, policy, research, or practice?
- What evidence demonstrates its impact or influence?
- What makes this contribution distinctive, innovative, or exemplary?
- What can others learn from this work?
- How has the work contributed to the advancement of early childhood education?
- What is its potential future contribution to the field?

Category 1 – Educational Research

In addition to the general guidance above, you may wish to consider:

- What new knowledge, understanding, insight, or perspective has been generated?
- How has the work advanced understanding of children, childhood, learning, development, pedagogy, policy, or practice?
- How has the work influenced research, policy, professional learning, or practice?
- What makes this contribution particularly significant, innovative, or influential?

Category 2 – Training, Teaching & Professional Development

In addition to the general guidance above, you may wish to consider:

- How has the work contributed to the development of the early childhood workforce?
 - How has it strengthened professional knowledge, skills, leadership, or practice?
 - What changes have occurred as a result of participation?
 - What evidence demonstrates its effectiveness?
 - What makes this contribution particularly innovative, effective, or influential?
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Category 3 – Best Practice & Innovation

In addition to the general guidance above, you may wish to consider:

- What makes this practice, project, programme, or initiative exemplary?
 - What is innovative or distinctive about the approach?
 - How has it benefited children, families, educators, settings, or communities?
 - What evidence demonstrates its success or influence?
 - What lessons, approaches, or insights could be adapted or transferred to other contexts?
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Category 4 – Digital Early Learning & Future Skills

In addition to the general guidance above, you may wish to consider:

- How does the work support children's learning and development in a changing world?
 - How does it promote responsible, child-centred approaches to digital learning?
 - How does it support children's wellbeing, participation, learning, or inclusion?
 - What knowledge, skills, dispositions, or competencies does it seek to foster?
 - What makes this contribution innovative, influential, or forward-looking?
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Honorary Award – Lifetime Achievement

In addition to the general guidance above, you may wish to consider:

- What has been the nature and duration of the individual's contribution to early childhood education?
- How has their work influenced research, policy, practice, professional learning, leadership, advocacy, or service to the field?
- What evidence demonstrates sustained impact over time?
- How has the individual contributed to the development of others within the field?
- Why is this contribution deserving of recognition at this stage of their career?