

### **Names and emails of convenors and current members of the SIG:**

- Co-Convenors: Nicola Wallis, Susan Chapman, Clare Murray
- Steering Committee: Nicola Wallis, Susan Chapman, Clare Murray, Sharon Shaffer, Amelia Ruscoe, Lisa Kervin
- Members of the SIG: Attached

### **Activities undertaken by the SIG in past year:**

- Over the course of 2025, we organized quarterly meetings to share current research and practice, including: inaugural surveying of goals for membership, lightning presentations, group discussions, and brainstorming around possible publication work.
- We have been able to platform our SIG members from multiple disciplines and backgrounds and from around the world. We have provided presentation opportunities for researchers, early years educators, university lecturers, artist educators, museum & gallery professionals and policy writers from the UK, Europe, the USA and Australia, with networking and dialogue at the heart of all our activities.
- Connections have been established via our network with colleagues finding new partners for collaborations on podcasts, panel discussions, and writing projects.

### **Planned activities for the coming year**

- Over the course of 2026/7, we have planned quarterly meetings to further share current research and practice, including: lightning presentations, networking, and collaborations amongst membership in research/publication work.
- We have also been invited to submit a proposal to Bloomsbury for a Handbook of Young Children's Arts and Cultural Experiences.

### **Links and networks established with other institutions and organisations**

- Through our continued networking and bringing leading thinkers, researchers, and practitioners together around the topic of young children's arts and cultural experiences, we've been able to establish connections with the International Arts in Early Childhood Network (many of our members attended the IAEC Conference and reported back to our SIG). Several members are also engaging in the Clyfford Still Museum's Early Childhood Education in Museums Symposium, entitled "Reimagining Museums Through Children's Participation.", as well as the EECERA conference where SIG members will be in attendance and presenting.
- SIG Steering Committee Members Lisa Kervin and Nicola Wallis together with Lois Peach and Jill Castek served as guest editors for a Special Issue '*Curating childhood – literacy, play, and meaning making in museum spaces*' for the Journal of Early Childhood Literacy. Across the articles, researchers explore complexity, multimodality, and lived experience by rethinking traditional approaches to data, analysis, and representation within contemporary literacy research. This collection extends longstanding sociocultural and critical literacy traditions that challenge

narrow or skills-based understandings of literacy, building on prior work in multimodal, participatory, and community-engaged research. The papers embrace qualitative and post-qualitative paradigms, emphasising methodological hybridity and experimentation. Collectively, the papers show that innovative methodologies reveal dimensions of literacy often overlooked by traditional approaches, including affect, embodiment, digital flows, and community-driven meaning-making. The Special Issue encourages educators, researchers, and policymakers to adopt more expansive, multimodal understandings of literacy that reflect contemporary realities. [https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ecla/25/4? gl=1\\*10w65nx\\* up\\*MQ..\\* ga\\*Nz U0Njg2MjA1LjE3NzQyMjE1ODQ.\\* ga 60R758KFDG\\*czE3NzQyMjE1ODQkbzEkZz EkdDE3NzQyMjE2MzlkajEyJGwwJGgxODE5MzI1MTM3](https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ecla/25/4? gl=1*10w65nx* up*MQ..* ga*Nz U0Njg2MjA1LjE3NzQyMjE1ODQ.* ga 60R758KFDG*czE3NzQyMjE1ODQkbzEkZz EkdDE3NzQyMjE2MzlkajEyJGwwJGgxODE5MzI1MTM3)

### **How the SIG's activities align with the aims and ethos of EECERA.**

- Our SIG is committed to heightening the legacies of early childhood educationalists before us while creating the conditions for critical dialogue about continued promising practices and emerging research focused on young children's arts and cultural experiences. Our efforts to bring together practice and research in stimulating presentations and conversations aligns with EECERA's aims and ethos encouraging exploration of new paradigms while also sustaining the rich tradition of European childhood thought.
- Our inclusive and collaborative approach supports less experienced colleagues to participate in dialogues and share their expertise alongside those who are further along in their careers in a spirit of learning and mutual support.