



## International Journal of Early Childhood (IJEC)

### **Special Issue: Where are we at, in recognising children's rights in early childhood, three decades on ...?**

**Call for papers:** This is a targeted call for articles for a special issue of the *International Journal of Early Childhood* (IJEC) to recognise the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, to be published in IJEC Volume 51 (3) - November 2019.

Three decades ago the rights of children in international law were acknowledged in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC; United Nations, 1989). Since that time, social reform agendas stemming from the convention have been instrumental in addressing national and international policies in relation to the rights of children and youth. Broadly speaking, the UNCRC addresses children's interests across "the three Ps", covering children's rights to provision, protection, and participation.

The early years are a "critical period for realizing children's rights" (United Nations, 2005, p. 3). Early childhood organisations and programs at local, state, and global levels have become more active in addressing children's rights, resulting in fundamental shifts in how adults are expected to engage with children. Despite advancement in children's rights, challenges remain for policy and practice in early childhood education and care (ECEC) programs catering for children, aged birth to 8 years.

It is expected that this special issue will feature a range of articles from across the world, that explore how children's rights have been enacted in education and care, and the challenges and opportunities that are afforded to children and their families within a children's rights agenda. Empirical articles are preferred over theoretical papers.

### **Possible Topics**

IJEC is open to receiving abstracts that address the following topics. Authors are not limited to these topics:

- **Teaching about democratic rights** - research that investigates the juxtaposition of embedding of children's rights in organisational and societal contexts in which children are social members.
- **Researching children's rights** - research that presents innovative methodologies on how to involve children in research on rights.
- **Experiencing rights** - research that explores how children experience and negotiate their rights across different contexts and spaces.
- **Embedding rights** - research that scrutinises how children's rights are incorporated in national and international policies and steering documents that focus on early childhood education.
- **Participating rights** - research that examines how rights of children to participate are recognised or managed for children with disabilities or children living in communities experiencing disadvantage.
- **Communicating rights** - research that investigates children's rights to have a say in everyday matters or how children can promote their own culture and language.
- **Playing with rights** - research that examines children's right to play and the best interests of the child, including the intersections of these topics in contemporary childhoods and/or digital spaces.
- **Recognising rights** - research that explores how children's rights are recognised in communities and other spaces.

### **Criteria for evaluation of initial abstracts**

- Overall quality of abstract and manner in which it addresses the theme of the special issue.
- Relevance to the aims of IJEC and its international readership; primary focus on children, birth to 8 years.
- Potential application and implications of the ideas for policy development or professional practice.
- Potential contribution of the research to new knowledge for ECEC, through the findings or methodological innovations.

## Guest Editor: Maryanne Theobald

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I am Senior Lecturer in the School of Early Childhood and Inclusive Education, QUT. My research interests include children's talk-in-interaction in disputes and friendships in the home, school, playground, health settings, with digital technologies and multilingual contexts. My methodological expertise is in qualitative approaches including ethnomethodology and conversation analysis, and participatory research methods of video-playback to stimulate children's accounts.

I am a current co-editor of the international peer-reviewed journal, *Research on Children and Social Interaction* (RCSI) published by Equinox. I edited the 2017 and 2012 special volumes for the American Sociological Association (ASA) section on *Sociological Studies of Children and Youth*. The 2017 special volume, *Friendship and peer culture in multilingual settings* (2017) brought together sociological research from around the globe and a range of methodological approaches to profile how children and youth make friends and interact in community, school, and digital spaces.

## Key Dates

Call for papers	10 December 2018
Submission of abstract	25 January 2019
Invitation to submit full manuscript	8 February 2019
Full manuscript submission	23 April 2019
Review process	April - May 2019
Revision process	June - July 2019
Final date for submission for publication	6 September 2019
Publication	November 2019

## Abstract and Manuscript Submission

**Abstract for initial review:** The initial abstract submission should include manuscript title, all author names and affiliations, and a 300 word abstract. The abstract needs to encapsulate the essence of the article by outlining: context and rationale for the research and how it relates to a children's rights agenda; primary research aim; theoretical framework; concise description of methodology; potential contribution to new knowledge for ECEC and implications for policy or practice.

- **Submission of abstract:** All abstracts should be sent as an attachment to [IJECeditor@qut.edu.au](mailto:IJECeditor@qut.edu.au) by 25 January 2019.
- If abstracts are not accepted for the special issue, manuscripts may still be developed by authors and submitted to IJEC through the regular IJEC submission process for possible external review and publication in an open IJEC issue.

**Full manuscripts for special issue:** Potential contributors whose initial abstract is approved will be invited to submit a full manuscript to Springer Editorial Manager: <http://ijec.edmgr.com/ijec/>. Please note that all papers will be peer-reviewed and there is no guarantee of acceptance.

- Preferred length for manuscripts is 6,500 words (main text and references); submitted in a conventional font (e.g., Times Roman, 12pt) with at least 1.5 line spacing.

Detailed information for IJEC authors may be obtained from the International Journal of Early Childhood (IJEC) website: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/IJEC/>. On the right-hand menu, under *Instructions for authors* (5<sup>th</sup> menu heading) is a down arrow. Click on the arrow and additional menu options appear including an attachment, *Additional Instructions for Authors*.

- All manuscripts submitted will be sent for external peer review and assessed using IJEC publication criteria. Final versions of manuscripts must be submitted to Springer- IJEC before the 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 for publication: IJEC, Vol 51 (3) is to be published in November 2019.