

Dear WERA team,

Please see below main activities organized by the IRN for 2022-2023. In our last report, we included events confirmed from May 2021 to May 2022. In this report, we include events that took place from June 2022 to the present.

The IRN *Promoting and Supporting Children's Agency and Participation in Early Education and Care: During the COVID Pandemic and Beyond*, currently has 30 members who have engaged with the network in different ways, e.g., promoting the IRN work among existing community networks.

- In 2022-2023, IRN conveners and members have presented the network to research groups and education policy makers in Ecuador, South Africa, and Uruguay.
- The IRN was promoted during a South African early childhood conference in 2022. In a similar vein, the Education Association of South Africa 2022 conference was informed about the network.
- The online platform still in use is Gmail and Google Drive to upload relevant documents of the IRN that are accessible to members.
- Information is sent to members through relevant networks and our current work, e.g., news about seminars, videos, events, and research has been shared to members.
- IRN conveners and member meetings took place bi-monthly. These regular meetings take place to discuss relevant topics of the network.
- A building capacity Webinar was led by Child-to-Child (Susan Durston, Celine Woznica and Chie Takahasi). Planning meetings took place in July 2022, and webinars were held in August and September 2022 for all members. The webinar outcomes were celebrated in social media acknowledging the network.
- Undergraduate Education Students of UNAE (National University of Education) in Ecuador have been working on projects related to children's participation.
- IRN conveners' student mentorship: a student of a master's degree at the University of Turin has been assessed in their master thesis about doing research with children and how to encourage their participation.
- Team members in Uruguay have been working on participation for older children and shared a summary of the VI Student Forum with members:

<https://youtu.be/6dDEH9igpdo>

The link is in Spanish, but videos and materials are shared to members with an approach to participation experiences. It is worth mentioning that English and Spanish have been used for communication.

- Collaborative writing has been encouraged between IRN members.

Please see below seminars and webinars that took place in June, July, August, and September 2022 onwards:

June 14th, 2022- 4-5pm UK time (*This event was announced in our previous report as forthcoming, and this is confirmation that the event took place.*)

Plenary: Participation and Agency in English Language Learning in Young Children

Abstract:

When teaching young children, language educators are confronted with the issue of how to teach their classes: by the book; by innovating and implementing good practices; or by doing what the curriculum determines. However, we often do not think about the role of young language learners in terms of defining what they want to learn, how they want to learn nor how this empowers them in and out of the classroom, because this goes against conventional teaching practices. This workshop will focus on how active participation (*young learners defining what and how they want to learn*) and agency (*young learners being empowered key players in making decisions about learning and other social issues*) can change the way we look at language teaching and learning in young children; the challenges we face in implementing participation; strategies for an implementation and how agency helps us to evaluate success.

Investigator: Nicola Wills-Espinosa, PhD

Co-Investigator: Maria Gabriela Jalil Perez, PhD(c)

- The seminar encouraged e-mails and questions to presenters to continue working on methods for young children participation and include this in the classroom practice. Mostly young teachers were in touch with the presenters and the seminar was considered a capacity building process. It brings participation from the ground, from classroom practice, to empower children since early ages.

August 30th, 2022- 4-5.30 pm UK time

September 13th, 2022-4-5.30 pm UK time

Two webinars were organised by *Child-to-Child* and a follow-up work regarding ‘train the trainer’ was considered for our network. Planning meetings were organised for July 2022.

Susan Durston, Celine Woznica and Chie Takahasi kindly shared their experiences and research in child participation in ECD through Child-to-Child methodology.

The plan was as follows:

- 1) Planning meetings in July 2022
- 2) The first webinar was scheduled for **Tuesday, Aug 30 at 4PM UK time** - 90 minutes (about 1 and a half hours)
- 3) The second webinar was scheduled for **Tuesday, Sept 13 at 4PM UK time** - 90 minutes (about 1 and a half hours)
- 4) The webinar was seen with a ‘train the trainer’ approach and included practical methodological steps to encourage children’s participation in research, education, and training.

Materials were uploaded on our common drive (the drive folder is accessed by IRN convenors and members)

Kind regards,

IRN convenors