Swiss Society for Early Childhood Research – 8th Annual Meeting 2027

«Neurodiversity in Early Childhood: From Developmental Norms to Developmental Diversity»

Dear Members and Friends of the Swiss Society for Early Childhood Research,

We invite submissions for the 8th Annual Meeting of the Swiss Society for Early Childhood Research (SSECR), an **interdisciplinary conference** that brings together scientists from various disciplines in early childhood research and professionals in the field. Authors are invited to submit proposals for posters, symposia, or individual contributions. The language for presentations and posters will be English.

This year's meeting, titled **«Neurodiversity in Early Childhood: From Developmental Norms to Developmental Diversity»,** will take place on **June 30rd and July 1st, 2027** in **Bern. The conference** will be **organized** by the **University of Bern.**

Neurodiversity is a highly relevant societal and scientific topic that offers a timely framework for rethinking early childhood development. Early development is inherently diverse, and the neurodiversity paradigm provides a fresh perspective on how this diversity can be understood and studied scientifically. The annual meeting aims to position the neurodiversity paradigm not only as a topic within special education or autism research, but as an interdisciplinary framework for early childhood research. By encouraging neuroaffirmative, strength-based, transdiagnostic, and participatory approaches, questions regarding (A) Development, Diagnosis & Diversity, (B) Education & Learning (C) Play, Interests & Learning, and (D) Early Intervention & Family-Centered Support will be discussed taking an interdisciplinary and interprofessional perspective. Besides fostering scientific exchange, the aim of the conference is also to convey insights from research into everyday educational and clinical practice. Therefore, researchers, scholars, students, professionals, and policy makers from all areas of early childhood are particularly invited.

We are delighted to announce two internationally renowned and interdisciplinary researchers as **keynote speakers** for the conference, who will share some aspects of their broad research on inclusive and neuroaffirmative perspectives on early development, with applied foci on educational and clinical settings.

Prof. Dr. Sue Fletcher-Watson | Developmental Psychology | University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Prof. Dr. Dr. Peter Marschik | Developmental Neuroscience | Klinik für Psychiatrie und Psychotherapie des Kinder- und Jugendalters, Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg, Gerrmany

We are pleased that our partner **Alliance Enfance** will once again host a session on knowledge transfer between science, practice, and policy.

We would like to invite you to **submit your contributions**. Detailed information on the speakers and guidelines for abstract submission can be found on our website or on Conftool.

Swiss Society for Early Childhood Research
Thurgau University of Teacher Education
Olena Schopf| Administrative Office
Unterer Schulweg 3
CH-8280 Kreuzlingen

Tel. +41 (0)71 678 57 84
info@earlychildhoodresearch.ch
www.earlychildhoodresearch.ch

SSECR
Swiss Society for Early Childhood Research

PRACTICALITIES

Abstract submission deadline:	**January 25th, 2027**
Acceptance notification:	**February 25th, 2027**
Registration for the meeting:	**March 15th – May 15th, 2027**

Date and Venue

Wednesdy and Thursday | June 30rd and July 1st, 2027
University of Bern | Location: Hochschulzentrum von Roll
Fabrikstrasse 6 & 8 | 3012 Bern

Who can submit an abstract?

We invite abstract submissions relating to any aspect or discipline of early childhood research, such as social sciences, education, psychology, healthcare/medicine, and migration studies. Alongside established researchers, we welcome attendance and submissions from early career researchers who wish to engage with other researchers in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

Types of presentations

Poster presentations are interactive and open, allowing researchers to visualize their work and providing opportunities for interaction and discussion. Poster sessions are suitable for both early-stage and advanced research.

A symposium involves a panel of speakers presenting in-depth, state-of-the-art research on one specific topic, including the application of new knowledge to practical examples. For symposia, we encourage an interdisciplinary team of 3-4 presenters. The duration of a symposium is 90 minutes, including 30 minutes for discussion.

Individual submissions will be accepted from junior researchers and grouped into symposia by the Organizing Committee. Please note that, depending on the topic and the availability of programme slots, authors may be asked to present their contribution as a poster instead.

Abstract details

- Abstracts should not exceed 250 words.
- Abstract title, authors' names, and affiliation are **not** included in the word count.

Submission guidelines

- Language: English

- Title: Each word should begin with a capital letter except transition words. Abbreviations or accented letters should not be used
- Keywords: 3–5 relevant keywords should be provided
- The abstract must include: Abstract title, abstract authors (First name, Last name, Affiliation, State, and/or Country). The details of the presenting author should match the conference registration name. The abstract body should not include tables and attachments, but references are allowed. Abstract formats for poster presentations, symposia, and single papers must include: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion.
- Please point out in the abstracts why the contribution could also be relevant for other disciplines.
- When submitting an abstract, the author grants the organisers the right to publish the submission electronically or in printed form.

The same person may serve as presenting author on up to two abstracts. The Scientific Committee of the Conference will review and select the abstracts to be presented.

All presenters (including all speakers considered for a symposium) must register for the conference and pay the respective fees.