

Swiss Society for Early Childhood Research – 6th Annual Meeting 2025

"Growing up in the Digital Age"

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

We cordially invite submissions for the 6th 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. Authors are kindly invited to submit their suggestions for symposia, workshops or posters. The language for presentations and posters will be English.

This year's meeting will be titled «**Growing up in the digital Age**» and will take place on **January 21th and 22nd 2025 in Basel**. The meeting will be **jointly organized** by the **University of Basel**, the **Basel University Hospital for Children (UKBB)** and the **University Psychiatric Clinics (UPK) Basel**.

The rapid technological advances during the last decades have strongly impacted our modern life. We are surrounded by digital devices that facilitate our daily routines, connect us to an ever increasing globalized social network, and offers limitless entertainment. Today, modern technology is also an essential part of family life. However, research suggests that excessive digital media use in children aged 0 to 5 years, and screen use in particular, might have a negative impact on child development, including language, cognitive, motor, and socioemotional delays. Thus, the omnipresence of digital devices has raised concerns among early childhood professionals, parents, and the general public. But how does growing up in an increasingly digital world shape child development? Are the concerns justified? What are good family digital media habits? What role does digitalization play in institutions? How can guidelines and recommendations be communicated effectively to parents, educational institutions, and communities? What other factors related to digital media use should be considered?

We are very pleased to have two experts as **keynote speakers** at the conference who will share their expertise on the potential impact of digital media use on children's wellbeing:

Prof. Dr. Heather Kirkorian | School of Human Ecology | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Prof. Dr. Katherine T. Cost | Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences | McMaster University

We are delighted 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](#).

PRACTICALITIES:

Abstract submission deadline:	August 31st 2024
Acceptance notification:	Beginning of October 2024
Registration for the meeting:	October 2024

Date and Venue:

Tuesday and Wednesday | January 21th and 22nd 2024

UPK | University Psychiatric Clinics

Wilhelm Klein-Strasse 27, 4002 Basel

Who can submit an abstract?

We invite abstract submissions relating to any aspect and discipline of early childhood research, such as psychology, education, healthcare/medicine, social sciences, 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, including the application of new knowledge to practical examples, etc. For symposia, we encourage an interdisciplinary team of presenters. The duration of a symposium is 90 minutes, including 30 minutes for discussion.

This year, we also welcome submissions of workshops. A workshop is an interactive exchange in which the participants deal with a specific topic. The focus is on practical relevance and interactivity. Therefore a good planning and structure is important. The duration of a workshop is 90 minutes. Abstract format must include: Background, Workshop-Methods and Goals.

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. Please do not use abbreviations or accented letters.
- Key words: select 3 - 5 key words which are relevant for your presentation.
- The abstract must include: Abstract title, abstract authors (First name, Last name, Affiliation, State, and/or Country). The name of the presenting author should be underlined. The details of the presenting author should be the same as the conference registration name. The abstract body may include tables, but no attachments and no references are allowed. Abstract format for poster presentations and symposia must include: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion. Abstract format for workshops must include: Background, Workshop Methods, and Goals.
- When submitting an abstract, the author grants the organizers 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 at the conference.

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