



## ***Dimensions of Early Childhood***

### **Call for Manuscripts**

### **Special Issue 2027**

**Theme:** *Back to the Basics: Building a Stronger Foundation for a Brighter Future*

**Guest Editors:** Zlata Stankovic-Ramirez & Maria C. Rutherford

**Submissions due: September 1, 2026**

Working in early childhood requires intentional attention to what every child needs to flourish. Childhood is a critical period in which we, as a profession, must meet children's foundational needs. One of those unequivocal needs for all children is the role of play. Childhood cannot be imagined, visualized, or understood without play. Play and its influential role in early childhood continues to be a critically necessary experience supporting children's developmental well-being (NAEYC, 2020).

In today's evolving and complex educational landscape, redefining and reenergizing the role of play in early education is a vital first step in ensuring that children are equipped for future success (Hirsh-Pasek et al., 2020). An emphasis on play demands robust approaches that recognize its central role in children's development.

We invite manuscript submissions with a practitioner and reflective lens that explore and address promising practices and strategies for children's well-being through play. We are particularly interested in manuscripts that examine play as a developmental necessity and the pedagogical role of play in early childhood education. Authors whose manuscripts are selected for publication in the special issue will be invited to participate in a panel session at the 2027 SECA/SCECA Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC, February 4-6, 2027.

Possible topics include the following as well as other related ones:

#### **Back to the basics:**

***Conceptualizations and Contemporary Perspectives on Play in Early Childhood***

***The Role of Play in Pedagogical Approaches within Early Childhood Education***

***Engaging and Supporting Families in Meaningful Play Experiences***

***Exploring the Intersection of Technology and Play in Early Learning Environments***

***Reexamining the Role of Play in Curriculum Design and Implementation for Young Children's Development***

***Framing Play Through Developmental and Learning Theories***

***Focused Play Practices in Early Childhood Education***

***Innovative and Responsive Play-Based Practices for Young Multilingual and English Language Learners***

## Back to the basics:

*Integrating Play Pedagogy into Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Programs*

*The Role of Play in Supporting Children with Exceptionalities and Diverse Learning Needs*

*Emerging Perspectives and Applications of Play Therapy in Early Childhood Contexts*

*Reflective Practices on Play Within Community-Based Early Childhood Settings*

- Manuscripts should be 10-20 pages (including references) double-spaced and formatted according to APA 7<sup>th</sup>. Authors are encouraged to include supportive references not to exceed 10-12 sources.
- Please submit manuscripts as a Word document and include a separate cover page with author information.
- **Send your manuscript via email to [editor@seca.info](mailto:editor@seca.info)**
- For additional details on manuscript requirements, please go to [Dimensions | SECA](#)

### References:

Hirsh-Pasek, K., H. S. Hadani, E. Blinkoff, & R. M. Golinkoff. 2020. *A new path to education reform: Playful learning promotes 21st-century skills in schools and beyond*. The Brookings Institution: Big Ideas Policy Report. [www.brookings.edu/policy2020/bigideas/a-new-path-to-education-reform-playful-learning-promotes-21st-century-skills-in-schools-and-beyond](http://www.brookings.edu/policy2020/bigideas/a-new-path-to-education-reform-playful-learning-promotes-21st-century-skills-in-schools-and-beyond).

National Association for the Education of Young Children. (2020). *Developmentally appropriate practice. Position Statement*. Author.