

Playgroup Conference 2026

Call for Abstracts Guidelines

CONFERENCE THEME

Better Together - Cultivating Connections

The power of collaboration, big and small, creates stronger, more connected communities, families and children. At the 2026 Playgroup Conference, we will celebrate playgroup, with a focus on why people are, scientifically and anecdotally speaking,

Our 2026 Playgroup Conference theme emphasises that we achieve more when we work together: It Takes a Village. Whether families partner with practitioners, organisations collaborate with other organisations and communities, or professionals join forces with researchers and policymakers, the goal is to build authentic, respectful relationships that benefit everyone involved.

Playgroups are unique within the community - places where togetherness can be embraced and thrives. Playgroups are much more than just a place for children to play - they are vibrant spaces where relationships are built, ideas are exchanged, and communities grow.

By focusing on collaboration, our Better Together theme highlights how playgroups can serve as a foundation for collective action that addresses broader social issues, all while supporting families in their parenting roles and children in their early years. The capacity to support children and families is enhanced further when professionals partner with other services – combining their efforts and resources for the greater good.

[Learn more on the conference theme can be found here](#)

PRESENTATION TOPICS

Family and Community Partnerships

Explore how families can work together within playgroups to create supportive networks. Learn how community collaborations can address shared challenges and foster inclusivity.

Professional Collaboration

Learn more strategies to build strong partnerships between families and professionals, ensuring holistic and child-centred approaches to care and education.

Group Dynamics in Playgroups

Dive into the importance of relational practice, where mutual respect and understanding strengthen group interactions.

Collective Action

Understand how pooling resources, sharing expertise and working toward common goals can lead to meaningful change for children, families and communities.

Respecting Roles and Expertise

Celebrate the diverse skills and experiences that each individual brings to the table, fostering trust and transparency in all interactions.

Togetherness at Playgroup

Family social networks, reciprocity and overcoming isolation, associated with a sense of community and belonging.

The conference committee opens the call for abstracts. We will bring together a high-quality program representing the conference theme and topic, that is innovative, diverse, interactive and relevant to the audience's needs.

KEY DATES

Applications open August 1, 2025

Applications close October 24, 2025

Outcomes announced in December, 2025

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submissions should be completed electronically via the online [Abstract Portal](#) and will require the following:

- Presentation type
- Title
- Conference topic
- Presentation description (<350 words)
- Author/s details (including Name, Bios and Photos)
- AV requirements

In your presentation description please address the following questions, under these headings:

1. Background, Rationale, and Alignment

Describe what is already known about this topic, the gap, problem, or unmet need that the program, service, or initiative addresses, and explain how this work aligns with the conference's theme or topic.

2. Objectives

Clearly state the primary aim(s) or objectives of this program, service, or initiative, as well as the intended outcomes or learning points targeted.

3. Description and Innovation

Describe what you did, including details about the program, service, or initiative—such as the setting, context, participants, and format—and highlight what is new or innovative about your approach, content, or delivery.

4. Diversity and Inclusion

Explain how your program, service, or initiative includes or addresses diverse perspectives, experiences, or topics, highlighting relevance for underrepresented groups or varied viewpoints when applicable.

5. Speaker Qualifications

Outline the relevant experience or expertise that the presenters bring, optionally citing roles, lived experience, or unique abilities to engage the audience.

6. Interactivity and Engagement

Describe how your presentation fosters audience engagement, such as including discussion, Q&A, case studies, or other interactive elements.

7. Conclusions and Implications

Describe the key findings or insights, explain why this work is significant or relevant, and provide recommendations or implications for practice, policy, or future research.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Submissions should be completed electronically via the online Abstract Portal.
- Multiple abstracts may be submitted by one individual/organisation
- The review committee reserves the right to adjust your chosen presentation type on your abstract submission to best suit the program.
- The presenting author/s are required to register for the conference to ensure their abstract is included in the final program. Up to 2 presenters of each successful application will be given a discount ticket offer.