

Australasian Journal of Early Childhood

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What do we publish?

The *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood (AJEC)* is a peer-reviewed journal publishing in all aspects of research in the early years (birth to eight years). Papers considered for publication in the journal must create and disseminate new knowledge that encourages the critical exchange of ideas amongst an international community of scholars.

AJEC invites submissions from a variety of disciplines, including: early childhood education and care; psychology; sociology; physiology; and allied health, or family support concerned with the birth to eight years age group.

AJEC welcomes submissions from authors who identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, First Nations or Australian South Sea Islanders.

Aims & Scope

Before submitting your manuscript to *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood*, please ensure you have read the [Aims & Scope](#).

Authors intending to submit to AJEC are also encouraged to read:

Standards for Reporting on Empirical Social Science Research in AERA Publications: American Educational Research Association. (2006). *Educational Researcher*, 35(6), 33–40. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189X035006033>

Readership

The target audience of AJEC includes:

Australasian and international early childhood professionals;

university and TAFE lecturers, professors and students;

children's services directors and practitioners;

government agencies; and

researchers and person/s working in fields related to the care and education of young children from birth to eight.

Selection criteria

Only manuscripts of sufficient quality that meet the [aims and scope](#) of AJEC will be reviewed. Selection criteria include:

congruence with [Early Childhood Australia's Code of Ethics](#);

relevance to Australasian researchers and practitioners;

issues relevant to Australasian early childhood education and care;

results being evidence-based and data-driven;

a valid interpretation of results;

potential for contribution to the international academic early childhood field;

current and seminal citations and references;

appropriateness of topic;

methodology that is congruent with academic standards (including theoretical and/or conceptual frameworks, limitations, ethical considerations);

establishing a context, rationale and relevance;

adherence to AJEC formatting, writing style, reference style and word length;

Article types

Formatting within the document

Avoid over-formatting with superfluous underlining, bold or all-caps in the body of text. Refer to titles of publications in the text only in italics.

Use only one space after a full stop before a new sentence.

Use only one paragraph return at the end of each paragraph; do not insert additional empty paragraph returns between paragraphs.

Please do not use hard spaces or multiple tabs to spread text across a page.

Headings

Please mark headings, subheadings and paragraphs clearly. For example:

This is a section/chapter heading (first-level heading) (Bold)

This is a subheading or side heading (second-level heading) (Italics, bold, first letter of the word is capital)

This is a subheading (third-level heading) (Italics, no bold)

Writing style and spelling

AJEC requests that all manuscripts conform to the current [Australian Government Style manual](#) and the [Macquarie dictionary](#).

Numbers and measurement

Zero to nine (0–9) should generally be expressed as words, but 10 onwards should be written as figures, e.g. ‘there were 23 children in the room, but five people saw them’. Variations may be used, such as Year 1 students, Table 1 etc. Do not begin a sentence with a numeral. Spell out if a sentence is to start with a number. Example: ‘Twenty-one students were present.’ Large numbers: 200 (two hundred); 5,000 (five thousand); 9,000,000 (nine million); 10,000. It is better to write 2.5 million instead of 2,500,000.

The use of metric measurement is preferred. As a general rule, figures rather than words should be used for:

Sums of money: \$5.08 or 25c, \$2000, \$10,000, \$25 million (not \$25 m)

Dates: 14 September 1994 (day, month, year)

Mass: 250t, 120 kg, 50 g

Measures: 56 litres, 25 mL, 26 km, 25 cm, 16 mm, 56 kilometres or 56 km

Inclination (degrees): angle of 45 degrees or 45°

Temperature: 35°C

Percentages: 9%

Age: 60 years old; an eight-year-old, four years, four years old, four-year-old, one- to four-year-olds, birth to one-year-olds, birth to one-year-old infants, a 35-year-old car or a thirty-five year old car (not: a thirty-five-year-old car)

Decimal fractions: 6.95, 3.002

Non-decimal fractions: one-third, one and three-quarters, an eighth, $\frac{3}{4}$ (not 3/4)

Ordinal numbers: the third example, the twenty-fifth student, the two-hundredth case

Statistics: $n = 7$

Probability: $p > 0.5$

Ratios: Children before parents/staff 10:2

Schooling: Year 1, K–12

Mathematical signs: $15 - 9 = 6$, -50

Expressions of time

Time of day: 10.30 am, 50 minutes, eleven o'clock, 9.30 am–11.00 pm

Date(s): 14 September 1994, 5 June 2002 (no commas), 1980s (not '80s), 2–4 June (en dash)

Eras: 44 BC, 1788 AD, the third century AD, the third century CE

Centuries and decades: the eighteenth century or the 18th century, the twenty-first century, 1990s, 2000s

Time frequency: twice weekly, fortnightly, every two months (not bimonthly)

Footnotes and endnotes

AJEC does not include footnotes. Endnotes are restricted to reference list only.

Acronyms

When using an acronym, the first occurrence must be spelt in full with the acronym quoted in parentheses. Subsequent occurrences should use the acronym.

Inclusive/universal language

AJEC acknowledges the breadth and diversity of those studying and working within the early childhood field. Authors should be aware of this diversity when writing their submissions by adopting inclusive and culturally competent language.

Where appropriate, articles should be inclusive of and relevant to a variety of settings such as those of family day carers, centre-based programs for young children and primary school educators working with children under eight years of age.

AJEC's readership comprises those from all states of Australia, New Zealand and Asia as well as farther afield. Authors should be mindful of using localised terms in which the meaning may not translate to other contexts or a broader international audience.

Where appropriate, authors should use general terms such as ‘early childhood settings’, ‘early childhood educators’, etc., and aim to be as clear as possible when using ambiguous terms such as ‘Prep’, ‘kindergarten’, etc.

Authors must identify in which category their article belongs.

Types of articles we publish include:

- **Primary research**

Word length: 3,000–3,500 words OR 6,000–6,500 words

Articles reporting on high-quality research projects with the potential to contribute new knowledge to the field. All primary research articles must include an ethics section that identifies where ethics approval was obtained (including approval number). Primary research articles reporting evaluations of a product or intervention need to address the theoretical implications of the product/intervention and demonstrate how it adds to current theoretical understandings as well as how it enhances practice.

- **Research notes**

Word length: 1,000–1,500 words OR 3,000–3,500 words

These may be shorter than primary research articles and could report on research in progress as well as completed projects. Students and graduate students are encouraged to submit articles on their research, as are first-time authors and practitioners engaged in reflective practice or practice research.

- **Commentaries**

Word length: 3,000–3,500 words OR 6,000–6,500 words

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The word count includes: body text, tables, graphs, references, appendices, and any supplemental materials. Because AJEC does not host supplemental materials online, any supplemental materials submitted with your manuscript will count towards the total word count.

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For clinical trials, the trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract.

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