

Children, Adolescents and Families – Special Interest Group (CAF-SIG)

Spring 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to our Spring newsletter!

We are delighted to share with you the Spring edition of our quarterly newsletter to share updates on our activities and progress, along with highlights of our members' news and achievements.

1. Overview of activities

- We held our last online SIG meeting in February, where Dr Nicholas Manktelow, University of Birmingham, presented the findings from his recent study: "*Co-production within community-based services for children with intellectual disabilities and behaviours that challenge in England*".
- Members have provided feedback on the research proposal and online survey for the SIG's collaborative research project. These have since been updated in line with member feedback, and an ethics application is currently being prepared.
- The SIG board have confirmed accommodation and funding possibilities available for members attending the in-person on-site meeting in October 2026. A full programme of activities has been developed and will be shared with members soon.

2. Collaborative Research Project update

As a SIG, we are keen to promote international collaboration through research to support families of children with intellectual disabilities. During discussions with members and non-members at our EAMHID workshop in Ghent, and in subsequent discussions with our members, it was decided that our project would aim to identify examples of 'best practices' in collaborative working.

During and following our February online SIG meeting, members provided feedback on the research proposal and online survey developed for this project. In response to this feedback, Vaso Totsika and Agnes Willemen have updated both the proposal and survey, including refining the project's focus to care co-ordination. Care co-ordination refers to the way of working across teams and services to produce a single plan for a child with intellectual disability and provide the family with a single point of contact.

To date, it has been confirmed that a Masters student studying at University College London, supervised by both Vaso and Agnes, will provide research support with this

project. An ethics application is currently being prepared and will be submitted for approval.

If you would like to be involved with this project, please email us at caf-sig@eamhid.eu to express your interest.

3. CAF-SIG meetings: Member presentations

On **Thursday 30th April**, we will be holding our next online CAF-SIG group meeting. During this meeting, we will have the privilege of listening to the following presentations:

Eleni Georgiadou Stefanaki and Eirini Anagnostou Kelepouri from the Association for the Care of Individuals with Autism (MAMa), Greece, will present their work as part of our good practices presentation.

Valerie Lye from University College London, England, will present the findings from her recently published meta-analysis: "*Behaviours that challenge in children with intellectual disability: systematic review and meta-analysis of pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions*". You can read the article here:

<https://doi.org/10.1192/bjo.2025.10871>

4. CAF-SIG in-person meeting - October 2026

As shared in our Winter newsletter, we are pleased to announce our first EAMHID CAF-SIG in-person on-site meeting, taking place **Thursday 22nd to Saturday 24th October 2026**. As voted by our members, this meet will be held at Bartiméus in Doorn, Netherlands, and will include a range of exciting activities including presentations, workshops, opportunities to collaborate, and visits to local attractions. All members are invited to attend.

Please register your attendance and indicate your interest in staying in fully-funded nearby accommodation **before Wednesday 1st July**. If you would like to attend, but are unable to due to funding, please contact caf-sig@eamhid.eu **before Monday 15th June** to discuss funding possibilities.

5. Recent publications

Since our Winter newsletter, several of our members have published their research in scientific journals. You can find a list of these articles and their links below:

- Dam, R., Manktelow, N., Bradshaw, J., Thompson, P. A., Gore, N., Cooper, V., ... & Seers, K. (2026). Perceptions and experiences of co-produced positive behaviour support training in community-based services and organisations for children with intellectual disabilities and behaviours that challenge: A qualitative multiple case study design. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, 39(2), e70203. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jar.70203>

- Rivard, M., Mestari, Z., Morin, D., Hastings, R., Coulombe, P., Mello, C., & Forget, J. (2026). Patterns of behavioral and emotional problems in young children with developmental disabilities: Cluster analysis and longitudinal follow-up. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-026-07280-w>
- *In Dutch:* Veerman, L.K.M., Willemen, A.M., Brouwer-van Dijken, A.A.J. en Sterkenburg, P.S. (2026). Veerkracht versterken van kinderen met een broer of zus met een beperking met de serious game Broedels. *Jeugd in Ontwikkeling*, 6, 1-30. <https://doi.org/10.54447/JiO.23456>

6. News and announcements

- Our secretary, Linda Veerman, will be on maternity leave from August 2026 until the end of January 2027. We are pleased to welcome Annemieke de Kat-Hooydonk, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, who will be covering this role whilst Linda is on leave.
- Emma Scripps, University of Warwick, successfully defended her PhD Thesis: *"Support Programmes for Parents of Adolescents with Intellectual Disabilities"*
- Paula Sterkenburg and her team held a presentation in Doorn, the Netherlands, on the step-by-step method used in prevention of stereotype and self-injurious behaviour of children with a visual-and-intellectual disability, with a special focus on the attachment relationship.



7. Details of our upcoming SIG meeting

Our next online SIG meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 30th April 2026** (GMT). Please contact us at caf-sig@eamhid.eu if you would like to join.

If you would like to become a member, or have any updates you would like us to share in our Summer 2026 newsletter, please contact caf-sig@eamhid.eu