

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

Winter 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to our first CAF-SIG newsletter!

We will be posting quarterly newsletters to share updates on our activities and progress, along with highlights of our members' achievements.

1. Overview of 2025

As 2025 marked CAF-SIG's first full year as a special interest group, we would like to take a moment to reflect on our progress and achievements:

- As a SIG, we decided on our name and logo
- We developed our [website](#) and [LinkedIn page](#)
- We expanded our members list to over 60 members, representing more than 15 countries
- In September, we attended the EAMHID conference in Ghent, Belgium. Members contributed to 20 presentations, of which two symposia were fully organised by CAF-SIG. We also organised a workshop attended by both members and non-members.
- We also contributed to seven articles in the Journal of Intellectual Disability Research (JIDR) [EAMHID special issue](#)
- We held three online CAF-SIG meetings and one in-person meeting during the EAMHID conference
- We conceptualised our first collaborative project
- We agreed on the location of our 2026 in-person SIG meeting

2. Collaborative research project

As decided by our members, our collaborative research project will focus on '*Inter-disciplinary collaboration between professionals and families of children with intellectual disabilities*'. This project aims to identify examples of 'good practices' and provide recommendations for inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral collaboration in support for families of children with intellectual disabilities. This topic was highlighted as an important area of focus during discussions with members and non-members at our EAMHID workshop and in subsequent discussions with our members.

To date, a research proposal and an online survey have been developed, which will be shared with all members during our February online SIG meeting for their input and feedback. In the coming months, we will look to gather data from professionals to identify examples of 'good practices' within their services.

3. Sharing of knowledge during our CAF-SIG meetings

Members are invited to present the findings from recently published research articles and to also share examples of 'good practices' during our CAF-SIG meetings.

'Good practices' presentations

During our December SIG meeting, Corine van Vliet from Youz, De Banjaard, Netherlands, shared an example of family support in her work: a Prader-Willi family week for the whole family. This week is for children with Prader-Willi syndrome and their families, with a specific focus on the challenges these children and their families may experience. The programme includes an intensive multi-family (group) treatment based on the methodology of Non-Violent Resistance as well as parallel and joint programme elements. The week also involves time for creativity and having fun together, such as a circus act by all the children at the end of the week.

In our upcoming February meeting, Eleni Georgiadou Stefanaki and Eirini Anagnostou Kelepouri will speak about services provided by the Autism Support Center of Imathia Prefecture, Central Macedonia, Greece.

Research presentations

In our next CAF-SIG meeting, Nicholas Manktelow will be presenting the findings from his recently published study focussing on co-production within community-based services for children with intellectual disabilities and behaviours that challenge in England.

The reference for this paper can be found in the 'Publications' section below.

4. CAF-SIG's 2026 in-person meeting – Save the Date!

We have scheduled our first in-person meeting for October 2026! As voted by our members, this meeting will be held at Bartiméus in Doorn, Netherlands. All members are invited to attend. Alongside a very exciting programme of workshops and events, this meeting will provide valuable opportunities for collaborative work. We would like to thank [Affect-Us](#), [Bartiméus](#), and [EAMHID](#) for hosting this event.



CAF-SIG
CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND FAMILIES
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

SAVE THE DATE

Our First On-Site Meeting

 Bartiméus Doorn, NL

 22nd – 24th October 2026

Further information about the programme of events will be shared in due course.

  

5. Publications

Over the last couple of months, several of our members have published their research in scientific journals - congratulations to everyone involved! You can find the links to these articles below:

- **Veerman, L. K. M., Willemen, A. M., Derks, S. D. M., Brouwer-van Dijken, A. A. J., & Sterkenburg, P. S.** (2026). Support needs and available resources for school-aged siblings of children with disabilities: A mixed methods study. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jar.70190>
- Manktelow N., **Taylor E.L.**, Thompson P.A, Flynn S, Bradshaw J, Gore N, Cooper V, Grant G, Gillespie D, Schroeder E, Langdon P.E, **Liew A, Lovell M**, Thomas L, Petrou S, Richards C, Seers K, **Hastings R.P** (2026), "Co-production within community-based services for children with intellectual disabilities and behaviours that challenge in England". *Tizard Learning Disability Review*, Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print. <https://doi.org/10.1108/TLDR-07-2025-0020>
- **Veerman, L. K. M.** (2025). *"Broodles": Well-being, adjustment, needs and support of young siblings of children with intellectual disabilities and/or visual impairments*. [PhD-Thesis]. <https://doi.org/10.5463/thesis.1441>
- Murray, C. A., Hayden, N. K., Gordon-Brown, A., Flynn, S., Bonetree, C., Harper, A., Kassa, C., Mahon, D., McGee, C., & **Hastings, R. P.** (2025). Implementation of Online Mindfulness With Peer Mentoring for Parent and Sibling Carers of People With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jir.70057>
- Patty, N. J. S., van Meeteren, K. M., Verdonk, M., Ketelaar, M., Schuengel, C., & **Willemen, A. M.** (2025). Risk and Protective Factors for Burnout Among Parents of Children With Complex Care Needs: Parents' Perspectives. *Child: Care, Health and Development*, 51(4), e70143. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cch.70143>

Articles published in JIDR's [special issue](#) for the EAMHID Conference:

- Antoniadou, M., **Totsika, V.**, Langley, E., **Hastings, R.P.**, and Williams, C. A. (2025) Comparing Levels of Positive Mental Well-Being and Life Satisfaction Between Mothers and Fathers of Children With an Intellectual Disability. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, 69: 1172–1180. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jir.70021>.

- **Halvorsen, M.**, Kildahl, A., Thimm, Jens C., and Helverschou, S. (2025) Structural Validity of the Psychopathology in Autism Checklist Among Children and Adolescents. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, 69: 1123–1131. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jir.70012>.
- Resina, P., **Mezzatesta, M.**, **Elias, N.**, Aparici, M., and Mairena, M.A. (2025) Identifying and Describing Best Clinical Practices for Children and Adolescents With Complex Communication Needs: A Scoping Review of Healthcare-Based Interventions. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, 69: 1081–1096. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jir.70022>.
- **Scripps, E.**, Thompson, P., Langdon, Peter E., **Hastings, R. P.**, Tonge, B. J., Einfeld, S. L., Sanders, M. R., Sofronoff, K., and **Gray, K. M.** (2025) Psychological Distress Trajectories of Parents of Children With Developmental Disabilities Participating in a Parenting Intervention. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, 69: 1051–1060. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jir.70037>.

6. Other achievements:

- Our secretary, Dr Linda Veerman, successfully defended her PhD Thesis: “*Broodles: Well-being, adjustment, needs and support of young siblings of children with intellectual disabilities and/or visual impairments*”, and was awarded cum laude.
- Our chair, Professor Paula Sterkenburg, was announced as the new President of EAMHID at the EAMHID Conference closing ceremony.
- Dr Ahmed Riaz Mohamed received the EAMHID Best Article Prize for his research on the [Attachment and Biobehavioural Catch-up intervention for children with developmental delays](#).

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