



Early Years: An International Journal of Research and Development

Editors' Report for the TACTYC Annual General Meeting on 12th November, 2011

Papers received, rejected and in revision

Submissions to the Journal continue to increase; 76 papers were submitted in the twelve months since October 1st 2010. This figure does not include a small number of papers submitted in error and intended for other journals. This total is 22 more than in the previous year. This increased rate of submission is not as yet accompanied by an overall increase in papers of publishable quality. Of these 75 papers, 15 have so far been accepted, compared with 17 at the same time last year; 29 have been rejected, either without being sent to reviewers, or after review; 2 have been withdrawn; and 24 have been returned to authors for revision. The remaining 6 papers are awaiting responses from reviewers or have yet to be assigned to reviewers.

Issues in Volume 31, 2011

- The March issue (31:1) included seven papers written by researchers from Cyprus, England, New Zealand, Scotland, Singapore and the United States.
- The July issue (31:2) was likewise made up of independently submitted papers and addressed issues around play, the role of men in early years and the challenge of working in multiprofessional teams. We also included a response to a paper on childhood obesity, originally published in 30;2, in July 2010, together with a response from the authors of the original paper.
- The November issue (31:3) presents a cluster of invited papers from New Zealand. We are very grateful to Sally Peters, an Editorial Board member based at the University of Waikato, for all the work she has done to identify, invite and support contributors to this issue, which was sent to press on November 2nd. It contains the following papers:

Enquiring teachers and democratic politics: transformations in New Zealand's early childhood education landscape.

Linda Mitchell

A curriculum of open possibilities: A New Zealand kindergarten teacher's view of professional practice.

Carmen Dalli

Being Māori: Culturally Relevant Assessment in Early Childhood Education.

Lesley Rameka

Young children reflecting on their learning: teachers' conversation strategies.

Margaret Carr

Connecting 'snippets of knowledge': teachers' understandings of the concept of working theories.

Helen Hedges

Exploring the value of 'horizontal' learning in early years science classrooms.

Bronwen Cowie and Kathrin Otrell-Cass

Issues planned for Volume 32, 2012

For 2012, the first issue will allow us to publish some independent papers which are already available in our growing 'backlog'. Some of these papers have already appeared online (see 'i-First contents' on the right of the journal website). The second issue (32:2) will be a special issue focusing on preparing people for work with children up to age three. The Call for Papers published in 30:2 generated a very healthy number of submissions. These are now either with reviewers or already back in the authors' hands for revision. Besides papers from UK authors, others submitted come from Australia, Belgium, Finland, Greece, Italy, Scotland, South Africa, Sweden and the USA. The final issue in 2012 will be a further collection of independent papers. We welcome suggestions for future special issues (for 2013!) – the editors are considering an issue focusing on ways of supporting the continuing professional development of early years practitioners.

Social Science Citation Index and moving to 4 issues per year

We await news of the outcome of our application to be included in the SSCI (Social Science Citation Index). Inclusion will make us more attractive to potential contributors who are concerned about the ranking of journals in which their work appears (and, increasingly, academics are coming under pressure from their institutions to submit only to 'high status' journals). We have been advised that our application may be stronger if we expand to 4 issues per year. This is something we will be discussing at length at our next Editors' meeting, in February 2012, when we hope to have more details about the financial implications for TACTYC – we may need to consider a small increase in subscription costs if we choose to go down this route.

Final word – a farewell to David Whitebread

We are very grateful to Prof. David Whitebread who has done a superb job of managing the book reviews section of the journal. David took over this role from Jenefer Joseph in June 2001 and since then has introduced many innovations, including encouraging the submission of reviews of a wider range of publications such as websites and multimedia resources, extending the range of reviewers to include people based outside the UK and posting reviews on the TACTYC website ahead of publication in the journal. We are very pleased to welcome Dr Jan Georgeson who has taken over the role of Reviews Editor from September 2011. We are also pleased (and relieved) that Jan will also continue in her invaluable role as assistant editor.