

Presentation notes: PRECI Conference 2024

Riding the wave: Advancing excellence and equity in ECI

Presenter bio:

Christine Imms is the Apex Australia Foundation Chair of Neurodevelopment and Disability at The University of Melbourne and The Royal Children's Hospital and is the founding Director of *Healthy Trajectories* - a child and youth disability research hub, on the Melbourne Children's Campus. She is an occupational therapist, academic and researcher who focuses on collaborative approaches that lead to improved participation outcomes for those with child-onset neuro-disability and their families. Her research expertise spans quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods approaches and for the past several years has conducted all her research in collaboration with people with lived experience of disability as co-researchers.

Title:

Participation: Start with the end in mind

Abstract:

Participation is a human right, participation restrictions are a known problem, and evidence for participation-focused approaches to improve outcomes is available. Given these statements, how do we structure our approaches to early intervention for children with developmental concerns or disability, and their families, to meet the goal of health-promoting patterns of participation across the life course? Recent advances in participation-focused research provides evidence that 'participation' can be both the 'means' to developing the range of skills and abilities children need to live a good life, and the 'outcome' – that is optimal patterns of participation across the life course. This presentation will unpack the Family of Participation Related Constructs (fPRC) in relation to early childhood, providing a framework for thinking, an overview of evidence, and examples of 'how to' be participation focused in practice. It's never too early to focus on participation.