

THE DIALOG

A Journal for Inclusive
Early Childhood Professionals

Writing, Reviewing, and Actualizing Research: Your Guide to Engaging with *The Dialog*

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Hello Dialog Community!

It is with great pleasure that we bring you this first issue not only of 2026, but as the revitalized *Dialog*. What better way to close out summer and kick off the new academic year!

This year has seen huge changes at *The Dialog* starting with the appointment of your new Editorial Board. This incredible team, which includes five dedicated associate editors and many new Editorial Board members, has been hard at work updating processes and dreaming about the future of our beloved journal. It may seem like it's been quiet...but so much has been going on behind the scenes at *The Dialog*! If you haven't met the new team, please check us out [HERE](#).

2026 has also brought exciting collaborations! First, *The Dialog* announced our sponsorship from the Teacher Education Division (TED) and TED's Early Childhood Faculty Special Interest Group (TeDeC)! This exciting new partnership is a direct result of collaboration between TeDeC and *The Dialog* in response to a critical need for dissemination outlets for early childhood research, especially scholarship aimed at supporting personnel development. TED, one of 17 divisions of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), is a diverse community of professionals who lead and support teacher education on behalf of students with disabilities and their families. [Learn more about TED here](#).

As one of TED's Special Interest Groups (SIGs), TeDeC provides a forum to communicate and connect with colleagues around issues related specifically to preparation in early childhood special education. [Learn more about TeDeC, the TED Early Childhood Faculty SIG here!](#)

Recently, *The Dialog* was also thrilled to announce its partnership with [The Alliance of Open Access Special Education Journals](#). We are honored to be an inaugural member of *The Alliance* and look forward to the impact this initiative will undoubtedly have. Guided by the motto "Free to Publish - Free to Read," *The Alliance* brings together open-access journals dedicated to advancing special education. Member journals believe knowledge should be accessible to everyone and not hidden behind paywalls. By connecting researchers, practitioners, and families with freely available scholarship, we can strengthen the bridge between research and practice. [Learn more about The Alliance](#) and get to know the other member journals! Be sure to read our white paper and let us know what you think!

Introducing the Future of The Dialog

Concurrently, our new Editorial team has been hard at work examining the journal's mission, aim, and processes as we continue our work to revitalize the journal. As a result, we have updated the Mission, Focus, and Scope. [Please take a look!](#)

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Our reflective work also illuminated the need to connect with our community in pursuit of our new and improved mission. Hence, the intent of this special issue is to bolster the enactment of our revised mission in collaboration with you - our community of readers, authors, and reviewers!

This special issue brings you a collection of articles specifically designed to illustrate what enacting our mission means for our authors, reviewers, and our entire community as we collaborate together to actualize research in support of early childhood inclusion. In our first article, Editor-in-Chief Ann Mickelson, Associate Editor Lori Meyer, and Managing Editor Fuyan Shi share details as to how authors in *The Dialog* can foster dialogue in pursuit of bridging research to practice. Next, Marla Lohmann, Editor, and Rachel Schachter, Associate Editor, detail how reviewers can further nurture said dialogue through the article review process. Finally, Johanna Higgins, Hsiu-Wen Yang, and Deborah Rooks-Ellis, Associate Editors, introduce *The Dialog*'s framework to support our community members to use *The Dialog* to actualize research in support of early childhood inclusion across preparation, practice, and policy.

But Wait...There's More Yet to Come!

Our amazing editorial team is still hard at work developing even more supportive tools to support our authors, reviewers, AND readers! Stay tuned!- Further, additional 2026 issues are in the works and our editorial board is currently reviewing a number of excellent submissions. We are excited to bring the voices of the field forward!

Please consider submitting YOUR work and encouraging others to do so as well. *The Dialog* welcomes many types of manuscripts from authors representing all aspects of the early childhood field. Academics, researchers, practitioners, parents - we want to hear your voice! Again, the first article in this special issue provides guidance. Plus, check out information [about the journal here](#) and our [submission/author guidelines here](#). Click here if you are ready to [SUBMIT](#) your work for consideration in an upcoming issue.

Do you want to stay informed of what's happening with the journal or suggest a topic for an upcoming special issue? Please register as a user by

using this [REGISTRATION LINK](#). Then watch for an email invitation - please check your spam! Are you interested in applying to serve as a REVIEWER? Let us know through this [INTEREST FORM](#).

We can't wait to welcome your voice, contributions, and engagement with the journal!

Questions?! Ideas? Feedback?? Don't hesitate to reach out!

Ann Mickelson, Editor-in-Chief

