



Restrictions on participation and social exclusion of children with disabilities have severe consequences for the children themselves, their families, and the health and welfare systems.

The use of information and assistive technology has been shown to be successful in reducing barriers to children's activity. It is thus vital that educational, health and social professionals are aware of the opportunities offered by emergent technologies, as well as of the effective ways to deliver technological solutions to children and their families in order to ensure children's involvement in education and society.

To this end, the aim of this Mini-Symposium is to explore current innovations in technology applied to developmental disabilities, and to address the challenges associated to technology-based interventions for both service delivery and policy development.

In particular, the Mini-Symposium will highlight:

Application of robotics in educational and clinical settings

Challenges brought about by technological innovation to healthcare and policy development

The Mini-Symposium is for anyone interested in innovation in health care and education of children with special needs, including (but not limited to) occupational therapists, psychologists, speech-language pathologists, teachers, and experts in information technology and assistive technology.

## **Programme**

### ***Mini-symposium - Maastricht***

12.30 - 13.30 hours: Welcome and lunch

13.30 - 13.45 hours: Prof. dr. Luc de Witte, *Maastricht University, Zuyd University of Applied Sciences (Zuyd) and Centre of Expertise for Innovative Care and Technology (EIZT), the Netherlands*): Introduction

13.45 - 14.05 hours: Rianne Jansens, *Zuyd and EIZT*: LUDI: a Pan-European Network Addressing Technology to Support Play for Children with Disabilities

14.05 - 14.25 hours: Renée van den Heuvel, *Zuyd and EIZT*: Development and evaluation of meaningful interventions with IROMEC robot for children with severe physical disabilities

