



The Society of Health Play Specialists 3rd Annual Conference

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Society of Health Play Specialists are pleased to announce that we will be holding our third annual conference:

Friday 26th June 2026 – UCLH London

An integral part of our conference is engagement with Health Play Staff. The chosen abstract will be a 20-minute presentation on the theme **“Children at the Heart of Healthcare – How Play is Improving Outcomes and Experiences”**.

We welcome abstract submissions from Health Play Specialists Health Play Workers and Youth Workers working in Healthcare settings.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS 10TH APRIL 2026 - The successful submissions will be notified shortly after.

Please note:

- Presenters are limited to one abstract submission.
- Abstracts will be selected through a review process by the SOHPS CPD sub-group.
- If your abstract submission does not follow the submission guidelines, your submission may be eliminated from the selection process.

Abstract Review Process

Each abstract will be considered by evaluating the following:

- The quality of their expected content (ie. The submission clearly outlined background/literature review, purpose, outcomes, relevance to conference themes, evidence of efficacy in the workplace to the multi-professional team and good reflective practice.

- The quality of the abstract organisation, as it is received by SoHPS (ie the submission complies with content and presentation guidelines).
- The quality of writing that is demonstrated.
- An appended reference list (please use the Harvard format for references)

Submission Guidelines

Topic: Abstract topics should reflect the overall conference theme and focus on one or more of the following sub-themes:

- Involving children/young people in their health care – Improving patient experience
- Innovation in the workplace/new projects – Service Development and Leadership#
- Resilience and coping
- Therapeutic play
- Supporting children/young people’s mental health
- Supporting Children/Young people with additional needs

Please present to us:

Title: This should reflect the topic you are discussing. An outline of your presentation, an abstract (maximum 500 words) including each of the following sub-sections:

- Introduction including background
- Purpose of presentation – why it is important/relevant to practice
- Significance to sub-themes. Specify the sub-theme(s) to which the abstract relates to
- Research/evidence-based submissions including research methodology and results
- Non-research submissions: explain the outcomes or impact of your idea/programme or topic.

Please provide contact details. All correspondence will be by email. Where there is more than one author, one person should be designated as the primary contact.

Confirmation of Submission

The primary contact author will receive email confirmation of receipt of the abstract. (If you do not receive this within one week of submission, please email admin@sohps.org.uk)