



25 years
Quality of Childhood
through diverse lenses

Alliance for Childhood

About the Festival

The festival is an on-line event hosted by the [Alliance for Childhood-European Network Group \(ENG\)](#) in Brussels. This festive event will also be the ENG's 85th QoC- session, bringing attention to the needs and potentials of childhood. Quality of Childhood (QoC) sessions are usually held in the Parliament building of the European Union in Brussels around four times a year and are hosted by the sitting MEPs who act as our patrons. Covid has, of course, interfered with this rhythm but we have found that using Zoom has increased our reach. We are hoping to be back in person in Brussels this September but seeing how useful the technology has served us in the intervening period, we hope to create hybrid events in the future. Added to which our presentations will be available on our YouTube channel from now on.

The festive online-event includes world-wide presentations, workshops and breakout groups, as well as contributions from children and young people. Along with short reminiscences from the past we will consider the tasks of both the present and the future. All in a mood of celebration that through our work and focus on the quality of childhood we can, together, make a positive difference to children's lives and through this endeavour have a positive effect on our troubled world.



The Alliance focuses on Childhood itself as a source of hope, imagination, trust and compassion and the cradle in which the foundation of our humanness takes root. But the world rapidly changes and brings new challenges to our doorstep, which our children also will have to face. We need each other to understand the complexity of these diverse realities and to get the inspiration for developing new ways forward, as well as coping with present challenges.

Children are the co-creators of our world and the qualities of childhood, that we all can retain throughout our lives, can together be a resource for positive development and hope. We want to celebrate these ideals and their practical implications with everybody who shares them.



Twenty-four years ago, when the Alliance for Childhood was established in the USA by the inspiring efforts of Joan Almon, who sadly passed away in July 2019, the consultative group of about 20 people she had assembled in Spring Valley were asked to name what they felt were the most important images of childhood and these were then written higgledy-piggledy on a

blackboard. We then went for coffee leaving her in the room and on our return found our thoughts had been reframed in what we now refer to as our vision [poem](#). We all clapped with joy.

Today in a changed world these values are still existentially valid, but we would also like to create an additional such text to stand alongside the original one. This is part of our programme for this event to which everybody is invited to contribute. Afterwards we will assemble your contributions into a text which will then be publicly available.

Our warm gratitude for joining us and working with the Alliance and in the hope of another 25 years of activity in working together towards a better world for our children with their interests and wellbeing at the heart of all we do. Christopher Clouder, on behalf of the Organising Team