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


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

14.45 - 15.05 hours: Lorenzo Desideri/Massimiliano Malavasi, Centre for Assistive Technology, Bologna, Italy: Educational robotics for students with learning disabilities: preliminary findings from the EDUROB project

15.05 - 15.30 hours: BREAK with coffee and tea

15.30 - 15.55 hours: Evert-Jan Hoogerwerf, AIAS Bologna onlus/the ENTELIS network, Italy: Advancing strategies to reduce the digital divide: linking AAATE, EASPD and EVBB in a multi-stakeholder network

15.55 - 16.15 hours: Lisanne Hogema, ZonMw, Den Haag: An exploration of AT care and stimulating innovative technology

16.15 - 17.00 hours: Discussion, time for questions and interaction

Language: English
Date / Time: 21 October 2015
• 10.00 - 12.00 hours Part 1
• 12.30 - 17.00 hours Part 2
Location: Maastricht, exact location to be defined
More information: marja.maas@zuyd.nl

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend the PhD ceremony - Aula Maastricht University, Minderbroedersberg 4-6, Maastricht

10.00 - 11.00 hours: Lorenzo Desideri, Centre for Assistive Technology, Bologna, Italy: Public defence of his PhD thesis, titled: Assuring the quality of assistive technology service delivery: a family-centred approach

11.00 - 12.00 hours: Reception

12.00 - 12.30 hours: Time to walk to the other location