



To the Leader of Local Authority
To the Leader of National Government

We are "Small Size Network" - artists, arts organisations and festivals around the world creating performances for early years. Our members meet our audiences in different parts of the world and continents.

Covid-19 has confined citizens to their homes and brought a real challenge for everyone in their towns, cities, countries across the globe. Most of all, children have been unable to access arts and culture as they did before.

Arts and Culture are defined as a basic need for children of all ages, protected under Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This Article aims to guarantee opportunities for children to express their creativity, improve their imagination, gain self-confidence and develop physically, socially, mentally and emotionally.

Small Size Network focuses on performing arts for early years. Early childhood is the period when humans grow up and learn the fastest. Current research shows that 85% of the human brain develops within the first 1000 days. Joyful interaction with early years is important for their brain development. They dance to music from 16 to 18 months onwards. From the age of two, children's journey to the world of imagination begins and they start to observe other children. They learn by reaching out to touch things, discovering sounds, shapes and colours. That's why it's important for children to come to performances and socialise with other children.

Local Authorities and National Governments should create an environment that allows children to explore, encounter performances and helps them to learn by observation and socialization. Young residents and their families make up on average 40%-50% of urban populations. Authorities must respond to the need for activities such as theatre, dance performances and other high-quality activities for early years.

Together with 91 members from 37 countries in six continents, we urge to you to support performing arts for early years, to enable children to participate in the arts, to encourage and support arts organisations in public spaces and schools. From Bologna to Santiago, from Toronto to Helsinki, from Ulaanbaatar to Rehovot, from Singapore to Sao Paolo, from Mexico City to Istanbul, from Athens to Edinburgh, from London to Brasilia, from Sabadell to Kazan and in many other places right across the world, we have a common wish; to continue to create for the little ones, to meet them, to listen to them, to take care of them and to let them feel, dream and fly!

The referred statistics are from: <https://bernardvanleer.org/publications-reports/playground-ideas-for-0-3-years/>

This manifesto is published in the frame of Small Size Days 2021, a yearly event organized to remind us all about the rights of the smallest ones for Arts and Culture. Normally it is a happy event where children and their adults enjoy performances, workshops and arts together in theatres, culture houses, schools and other public venues. This year most of the program is alas, online. Join us on facebook and other social media #smallsizedays2021 #ssd2021.

Artistic International Association Small size
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To date the members are:

A la Deriva Teatro – Mexico | Acción Educativa – Spain | Almaz Sadriev - Republic of Tatarstan, Russia | ACT 3 International – Singapore | Annasara Yderstedt – Sweden | Ak entrepôt – France | Arena en los Bolsillos – Spain | Art Fraction Foundation – Poland | Arthouse Little Aurora – Finland | Artika Theatre Company – Greece | Asociación de Teatro Escolar – Spain | Atta Festival- Turkey | Baboró International Arts Festival for Children – Ireland | Babyopera – Norway | Bradipoteatar - Republic of San Marino | Catarsis - Art for Children and Young People – Brazil | Centrum Sztuki Dziecka w Poznaniu – Poland | Charlotte Allan – UK | City of Helsinki Cultural Office - Annantalo Arts Centre – Finland | City of Limoges - Centres Culturels Municipaux – France | Clíodhna Noonan/Acting Up – Ireland | Colectivo de teatro en espiral – Mexico | Coletivo Antônia – Brazil | Compagnia Il Melarancio – Italy | Compagnia TPO - Associazione Teatro di Piazza o d'Occasione – Italy | Compagnie Du Porte-Voix – France | Compañia Aranwa – Chile | Compañia Teatro Al Vacío – Mexico | Creative Bamboo Ngo – Mongolia | Cwmni Theatr Arad Goch – UK | Da.Te Danza – Spain | Dance Theatre Auraco – Finland | Dockteatern Tittut – Sweden | Drammatico Vegetale/Ravenna Teatro – Italy | Dybwikdans/Elfantteateret – Norway | RED STAGE THEATRE / Eleni Odysseos – Cyprus | Escena Miriñaque – Spain | Gabi Dan Droste – Germany | Gradsko Kazalište Lutaka Rijeka – Croatia | Graffiti Theatre Company – Ireland | H2Oz Collective – Belgium | Hämeenlinna / Hippalot Arts Festival For Children – Finland | HELIOS Theater – Germany | Ieltxu Ortueta / Artefactos Bascos – Brazil | Jo Belloli – UK | Kabóca Bábszínház és GYKI – Hungary | Ketti Grunchi – Italy | Kinderkinder E.V. – Germany | Klankennest – Belgium | Kolibri Theatre for Children and Youth – Hungary | La Baracca ONLUS – Italy | La Piccionaia Società Cooperativa Sociale – Italy | La Sala – Spain | Lali Morris – Ireland | les Zerkens – Belgium | LGL - Lutkovno Gledalisce Ljubljana – Slovenia | Loiske Ensemble – Finland | Mala Scena Theatre – Croatia | Muziekvoorstelling.NI – Netherlands | Myrto Dimitriadou – Austria | Nat Gras Dance Company – Belgium | Polka Theatre – UK | Puppet Theatre Sampo – Finland | Rachel Riggs – Australia | Samta Shikhtar – India | Sharon Gavrielov – Israel | Starcatchers – UK | Sticky Fingers Early Years Arts – UK | Studio DAMÚZA – Poland | Take Art Ltd – UK | Teatar Puna Kuća – Croatia | Teater Tre – Sweden | Teatergruppen Batida – Denmark Teaterværkstedet Madam Bach – Denmark | Teatr Malego Widza – Poland | Teatriukas – Lithuania | Teatro all'Improvviso Soc. Coop. – Italy | Teatro De Ocasión – Chile | Teatro Pan – Switzerland | Teatro Paraiso – Spain | Teatrul Ion Creanga – Romania | The Little Foxes, Baby Theater Company – Greece | Theater De Spiegel – Belgium Theaterhaus Ensemble – Germany | Théâtre de La Guimbarde – Belgium | Theatre Du Chocolat – Cameroon | Toihaus Theater – Austria | Train Theater Association – Israel | Wee Festival – Canada | Yael Ankry / Batenosh – Israel | Yutaka Takei – Japan.