Response to Comments from Referee #2

Concerning the review of the manuscript “Towards family-friendly conferences in the geosciences: results from a first survey” by Elena Päffgen, Lisa Schielicke, and Leonie Esters submitted to Geoscience Communication (Preprint egusphere-2025-1200).

We thank the referee for their helpful comments and improving our manuscript.
In the following, the referee’s comments are highlighted in **blue** and boldface and our replies will be shown in black below each comment.

> **1. In the category groupings for your results (pg 6): “hybrid” seems to be an odd thing to include with other things that seem to be explicitly about on-site supports. With the importance this option was given by survey participants (76% of survey participants who are parents requesting it), it may be better to have this in it’s own category. Isolating it would emphasize it as a strong result and an important outcome.**

We agree with the referee and will add a new category for hybrid meetings to highlight their impact for parents in academia. We will add a dedicated section in line 160 that presents the aspect of online conferences in our survey results.

> **2. One thing I think is missing from the Discussion is the feasibility of acting on the recommendations presented here. For example, one suggestion was to waive the fee for caregivers that accompany conference participants. Financially, this is a reasonable request. The caregivers aren’t participating in conference events, just watching a child for an attendee. The cost to the organizers to let these individuals access the conference building at no charge is extremely low. On the other hand, requesting child care while at the same time requesting no fee for children and travel support for families seems to be a bit of a financial paradox. How are the costs for childcare being covered in this scenario – higher fees for everyone? Some other source? In the middle ground is the family-friendly programming. If they are simple events, it is a feasible suggestion that only requires people who are willing to step up and organize the activities and conference organizers who are willing to allocate space for the event. However, more elaborate events that may require supplies or equipment (toys, activities, transportation) have costs involved and again the question arises as to who covers those costs. Then there is the hybrid meeting issue. As someone who champions this idea, the most common reason given for not supporting hybrid participation is cost. At many conference centers, there are outrageous fees associated with hybrid events and it simply costs too much to offer it at a reasonable fee to participants. There are likely other challenges beyond cost that would be easier to deal with. Even without a detailed discussion of these issues, acknowledging that some of these ideas have significant challenges that would need to be addressed would help further the discussion in a constructive way.**

We thank the reviewer for their thoughtful comment. In response, we will incorporate a dedicated section in the “Composition of a guide for conference or workshop organizers”

section (l. 241) that explicitly examines the feasibility of the proposed family-friendly guidelines, with particular attention to the financial and logistical challenges of their implementation. Certain measures, such as waiving fees for caregivers accompanying participants, providing information of the family-friendly infrastructure nearby the conference center (e.g., playgrounds), or family-friendly programming, represent low-cost, achievable measures, as they impose a minimal financial burden to conference organizers and can be facilitated through volunteer engagement. On-site childcare, financial support of families and hybrid event formats require substantial resources that might exceed conference budgets. In our discussion we want to acknowledge these constraints and highlight the measures that can be taken even with low resources to offer organizers realistic options to move towards family-inclusive events.