

Pīkau Name: Pīkau 11: DDDO PO1: Digital outcomes - Getting started with progress outcome 1

Video Name: Authentic writing using digital tools (Sam Pelham)

Presenter: Sam Pelham

Hi. I'm Sam from St Albans School in Christchurch. I like to start digital projects in our school with pen and paper because we see planning as a huge part of the learning journey with any digital projects that we undertake. I have no fear that digital learning will prevent children from learning to write. In fact I think that the opposite is true. When they know that they are writing for an audience and presenting their work digitally I find that they are way more motivated and they write higher quality text and it fits the purpose a lot better. And it's usually completed more quickly when the children know that their next step is a digital project.

For me I try and endeavour to embed digital learning into whatever part of the curriculum it fits. I also make a real effort to not teach DT in isolation particularly often. I find literacy is an excellent context for digital learning. Apps such as Clips or Book Creator, story visualizers, stop motion, green screening, iMovie and Figment AR are some of my favourite ones. I find they are fantastic ways of integrating digital learning in allowing children to share their thinking, their ideas, their questions. They can work both independently and collaboratively on tasks using these apps and share their learning with lots and lots of other people. I believe this brings their writing to life, children are writing for a purpose and an audience beyond their teacher. They are motivated to write well because they want their end piece of work to be outstanding. I've noticed a huge improvement in oral language skills and also the childrens' confidence in front of an audience and their performance skills by using this approach.

We promote using the best tool for the task at hand. We like for the children to have the choice. It's not always digital and if it is digital it is aimed at being in a way that it is promoting creation rather than consumption. We find that there is an increased depth to the childrens' learning and they are more engaged with the task when this approach is used. We avoid using apps such as Google Docs too often as we find that most children are faster and better at recording their planning in their writing on paper. This allows the device to be used for the creation aspects. There are of course exceptions to this and we allow those children who are better on a device to use that if it works best for them.

We find the 'Grow Waitaha DigiAwards' to be an excellent motivator and great context for our tamariki. They love the challenge of a competition and the specific criteria that each category gives them. It helps them to develop their work, to be engaging for the audience. The celebration night is a big event for our children and one that they really look forward to.