

# Contemporary (Digital) Literacy of Preps

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Both the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians* (Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, 2008) and *Victoria as a Learning Community* (Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, 2011) articulate the Government's goal of improving student outcomes and

empowering our children and young people to thrive throughout their lives. The Department's *Victorian Early Learning and Development Framework* (2009) for children aged 0-8 years also supports the use of technology in the early years to assist children to have a strong sense of identity, be connected to their world, possess a strong sense of wellbeing, become confident and involved learners, and more effective communicators.

Technology such as web conferencing, the Ultranet, blogs/wikis, virtual worlds, online gaming, and mobile devices such as iPads, mobile phones, digital cameras and voice recorders are changing the way teachers teach, and the way students learn.

Technology enables learning to extend beyond the classroom walls and facilitates better access to learning resources. It also supports the creation of partnerships with the wider school community, and equips learners with contemporary (digital) skills necessary for successful participation in life.

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The project, which ran throughout 2011, involved 20 primary schools from across Victoria each working towards developing digital skills in early learners. The skills they were developing included:

- Safe, ethical and responsible use of technologies
- Collaboration
- Creativity
- Critical thinking and evaluation
- Cultural and social understanding
- Effective communication
- Finding and selection information
- Functional (technical) skills

The *Contemporary Literacy Practices of Preps e-book* developed as part of this project showcases 63 activities teachers can do with readily available technologies to help Preps improve their contemporary (digital) literacy skills today. The interactive e-book can be found at <https://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/?KY8WDK>. (For ipad users we have also included a PDF version at: <https://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/?CJD8WP>).

This e-book intends to inform teacher practice as schools explore new ways to engage learners and improve learning outcomes with the use of technology.

## References

Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (2008) *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians*, Accessed at: [www.mceecdya.edu.au/mceecdya/melbourne\\_declaration,25979.html](http://www.mceecdya.edu.au/mceecdya/melbourne_declaration,25979.html)

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