

Digital Preschool Newsletter September 2009

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Welcome to those who are receiving this newsletter for the first time.

Click onto an underlined link to move to that specific section. You may have to hold your Ctrl key down as you click the text to open the link. Hyperlinks to more information may require internet access.

I would love to have feedback and suggestions for the next newsletter.

If you wish to unsubscribe send all correspondence to info@digitalpreschool.com.au

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DIGITAL PRESCHOOL NEWS

Thanks for the emails asking 'Are you still there?'

I didn't think my life could get any busier but it has. So busy that the newsletter just seemed to get pushed down the list. I will try my best to rectify this and make it a priority each month.

The last six months I have been extending my work for the Early Childhood Teachers' Association (ECTA) and am now the President and Secretariat so busy but very rewarding days. I have had the privilege of participating in several national forums around the national early childhood reforms where I have strived to give a voice to the opinions of my colleagues. Early childhood is definitely on the agenda both at a state and federal level with many changes happening.

My consulting business has continued to expand as has our sales of figurines and art centres.

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CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

If you are interested in having Kim present/train your staff, group of centres or facilitate a conference in your area contact her via email to discuss your requirements.

My Diary by Kim

In May I presented a videolinq workshop for ECTA entitled **From Craft to Creativity**. ECTA has made the recording available via video streaming. If you are interested just click the link below to view the workshop

<http://mediasite.videolinq.tafe.net/Mediasite/Viewer/?peid=87400d34fdf94aa188bdcd846c38f02>

I also presented this workshop for the Home Economics Teachers of Australia conference at the Convention Centre Brisbane on 8 August. It is amazing the brain research that is being published now that confirms that creative open ended experiences lead to emotional, social and cognitive development.

Our annual ECTA conference held on Saturday 27th June was once again a huge success. If you are interested in joining the Early Childhood Teachers' Association go to www.ecta.org.au Members receive three excellent journals each year along with DVD recordings of conference presentations and/or videolinqs.

I recently was invited to speak at the Brisbane Kindergarten Teachers' College (BKTC) Jean Ferguson lecture in Brisbane. It was very enjoyable being on the panel presentation to express my views and to hear those of others regarding ICT usage and young children. The focus of the evening was the proposed recommendations for no screen time viewing for under-tuos. ICT in EC doesn't just mean games it should focus on enhancing communication between educators, families and children. I gave the example of my niece Julie who is stationed overseas for 6 months. Julie uses Skype to speak via video to her husband and young children. Families also use Face Book to share images.

I also enjoyed sharing my digital resources with the teachers on the Gold Coast. My presentations were held in the Prep room which has an interactive white board. What a great way to share the digital learning stories the children can see inserted video, images and listen to recorded audio reflections from their educators and peers. My school (Gympie South State School) is currently investigating purchasing IWB for our classrooms. I can't wait. At present the children access their learning stories via two computers in the room but to be on a white board WOW.

This weekend, 22 August, I am off to the Gold Coast International Hotel (It's a hard life for some) to present at the QCAN conference. I am present on using ICT to enhance communication within Outside School Hours Care settings.

On the 28th I am presenting my Craft to Creativity workshop for educators on their pupil free day in the Cooloola region. On the 14 September I am speaking to the Family Day Care educators on using ICT to enhance communication and learning in their settings.

Professional learning opportunities:

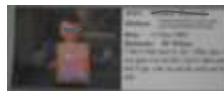
Ask Kim about any of the above presentations info@digitalpreschool.com.au or enquire about organising a professional learning opportunity in your area.

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ATTACHMENT

Artist Rationales

We placed these rationales beside displays of the children's work.



1. Click into the large cell on the left.
2. Open the folder that contains your images and drag and drop an image from the folder into the cell. (Alternately click *Insert/Picture* or earlier versions of Word select the *Insert Picture* icon on the *Drawing* toolbar)
3. Select the picture (either the child with the work or the child creating the work)
4. Click onto the edge of the picture and drag it out so that it fills the area. (if it is of portrait orientation you may want to crop off the bottom or top.
5. The cell will expand as large as you need it.
6. Type text into the various cells on the right.

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PORTABLE ART CENTRE

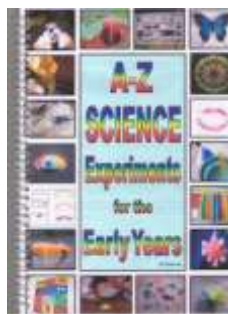


Our Art Centres are continuing to inspire creativity in children across the country. We are now making the trolley from aluminium which is much lighter. To find out more click [here](#)
The art centre was designed by Kim and used to provide open ended creative art experiences for the children in her group of 3 to 5 year olds. The centre may store - paint (dispensed from pumps - optional), palettes, water pots, paper and painting and drawing utensils plus tape, staplers etc. With the optional trolley it can be pushed easily indoors or out. The centre is now sold with pumps and bottles supplied.

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PRODUCT FEATURE A-Z SCIENCE

<http://www.digitalpreschool.com.au/menu/resources/AZScience.htm>



AZ Science has straight-forward lists of everyday materials and clear, step-by-step instructions. Colour photos are used in the book to illustrate these entertaining, hands-on investigations that assist in developing students problem-solving skills and powers of observation. Each exciting experiment also includes simple explanations of the scientific concepts involved, to help introduce students to some of the basic principles underlying the wonders of the world and to aid in initiating scientific inquiry.

Order now only \$45

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FIGURINE ORDERS

NEXT YEAR WE ARE GOING TO INTRODUCE REUSABLE FIGURINE FRAMES IF YOU ARE INTERESTED EMAIL KIM. info@digitalpreschool.com.au

FIGURINES ARE NOW \$10each FOR CHILD FIGURINES AND \$12 FOR ADULT FIGURINES.

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY US BEFORE 1 SEPTEMBER TO BE READY FOR THE END OF THE SCHOOL 2009 YEAR. Found out more from the website <http://www.digitalpreschool.com.au/menu/resources/figurines.htm>

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TECHNICAL ADVICE

Picture Resizing

I have been asked for this information again so repeating it in this newsletter.

The Microsoft Picture Resize Powertoy is a freely downloadable picture resizing tool for use with Windows XP. It is really easy to use so i recommend you try it. Just select a group of pictures in their storage folder and right click over them and select *Resize Pictures* from the list. (once you install the Resizer this option is added

to the list.) You can choose small, medium or large and to replace the original or make a new picture. The new picture will be called 'original name (small)'. Click [ImageResizer.exe](#) to download the tool. If the link doesn't work type <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/powertoys/xppowertoys.msp> into the address bar of your internet explorer to open the webpage. Scroll down the page and select ImageResizer.exe in the right hand list.

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YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Making Digital Portfolios Protected

I have recently been asked by a centre how could they make the PowerPoint presentations within their Sharing the Journey system protected so parents can't change the files or copy pictures from a slide. I personally just sent a note home with the presentations stating they were for personal use only and images and video and audio recordings should not be distributed or published by parents. If you wish you could have parents sign a license agreement.

If you wish to add further security make the following changes before you burn the portfolio system to CD for distribution to parents. There are two things you can do to protect the PP files. Change them from a PowerPoint Presentation (PPT) to a PowerPoint Show (PPS) so that they open in *Show* mode instead of *Edit* mode. You can also add a *Password to Modify* security setting.

First add a security setting which stops modifications and also change the file Once you change the files to PPS files you will also need to reset the hyperlinks which take you to each journey file when you click onto the linked AutoShape on the home page screen. A PPS file opens in view mode whilst a PPT file opens in edit mode. PP show files can be opened however if you go via the PP software. That is why the Password to Modify needs to be in place if you don't want parents to modify the presentations. This stops anyone from opening the file unless they know the password.

To add the *Password to Modify* (will only totally stop access if done on a PPS file)

1. Click onto *Tools* on the main menu and *Options* then select the *Security* tab. (Office 2003)
2. Add the password to the Password to modify: section.
3. Confirm the password
4. Save the Changes

Change from a PPT to a PPS file

1. Open the file you wish to change.
2. Click *Save As*
3. Set *Save as Type* to PowerPoint Show(PPS)
4. Now open the folder and delete the original PowerPoint presentation file (PPT). You will notice the icons for a PPS and PPT look different. To help decide which one to delete hover over each and it will show you the date created.
5. Repeat for all the other presentations.

Reset links on Home Page so that they open the new PPS files when clicked

6. Open the *home page presentation* that has the links to the individual files.
 - a. This is in the same folder as the individual Child folders or Group files (It will be called *Our Journey HP* or *My Journey HP* or *Prep Folios Home Page* or *Child Portfolios Home Page* or *Main Page* depending which system you are using)
7. Right click over each AutoShape and select *Edit Hyperlink*
8. Select the newly saved *PPS* file.
9. Repeat for each of the AutoShapes
10. Save the changes

Send your questions to Kim she will answer you via email asap (usually in same day) and your question may be posted in the next newsletter.

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