Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

What technology statement? Exploring ECA's Statement on young children and digital technologies, and its impact on practice

Presenter: Dr Kate Highfield

2019 ECA National Conference

OUR VISION: EVERY YOUNG CHILD IS THRIVING AND LEARNING

Before we get started….

Lets have "the chat"

Does technology have a place in early childhood?

Mentimeter

- 🔵 No, all technology should be banned completely
- 🟡 Technology is for home, not the centre
- 🟢 Yes, for teachers to use

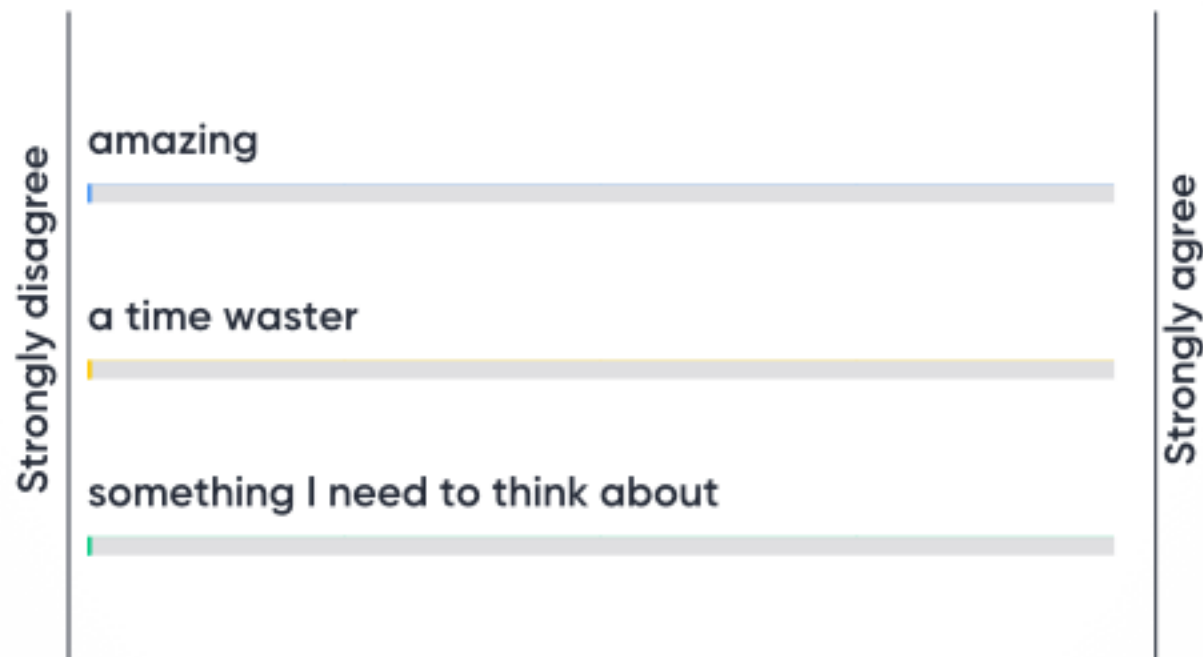- 🔴 Yes, for children to use

⊘ Slide is not active   Activate

👤 0

For me, as an adult, I think technology is....

Mentimeter

Strongly disagree | Strongly agree

amazing

a time waster

something I need to think about

Slide is not active | Activate

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In my service....

0   0
_____
Parents are   Parents are
worried about   keen to use
technology   technology

0

Our perceptions of technology influence how we use it and how we grasp (or don't grasp) its affordances……

TECHNOLOGY
in early childhood

Early Childhood Australia

Statement on young children and digital technologies

Relationships

Citizenship

Health and Wellbeing

Play and Pedagogy

This is a hot topic…..

Early Childhood Australia
23 August at 20:45 ·

The news this week has many people worried about children's 'screen time'. Are babies overexposed to smartphones, tablets and laptops?

We put together an expert group to sift through the research and explore how educators and others can manage the risks, while responding to the reality of the digital world that today's children are born into.
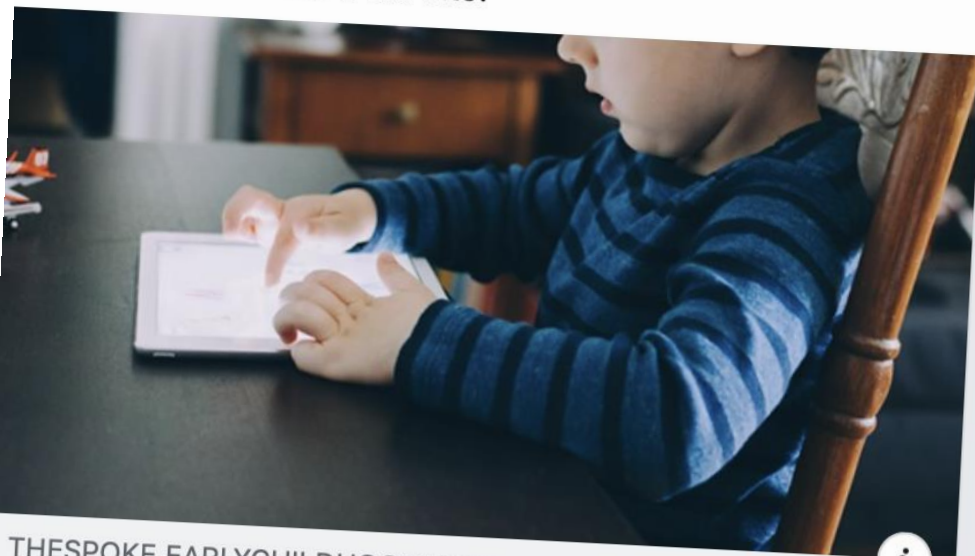
THESPOKE.EARLYCHILDHOODAUSTRALIA.ORG.AU

Tips for Parents of Young Children using Digital Technology - The Spoke – Early C... Australia's Blog

12,476
People reached

549
Engagements

Boost Post

38

2 Comments 39 shares

Performance for your post

Performance for your post

Performance for your post

12,476 People Reached

116 Reactions, comments & shares ⓘ

68 Like	**36** On post	**32** On shares
2 Love	**2** On post	**0** On shares
6 Comments	**2** On Post	**4** On Shares
40 Shares	**39** On Post	**1** On Shares

433 Post Clicks

| **0** Photo views | **227** Link clicks | **206** Other Clicks ⓘ |

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

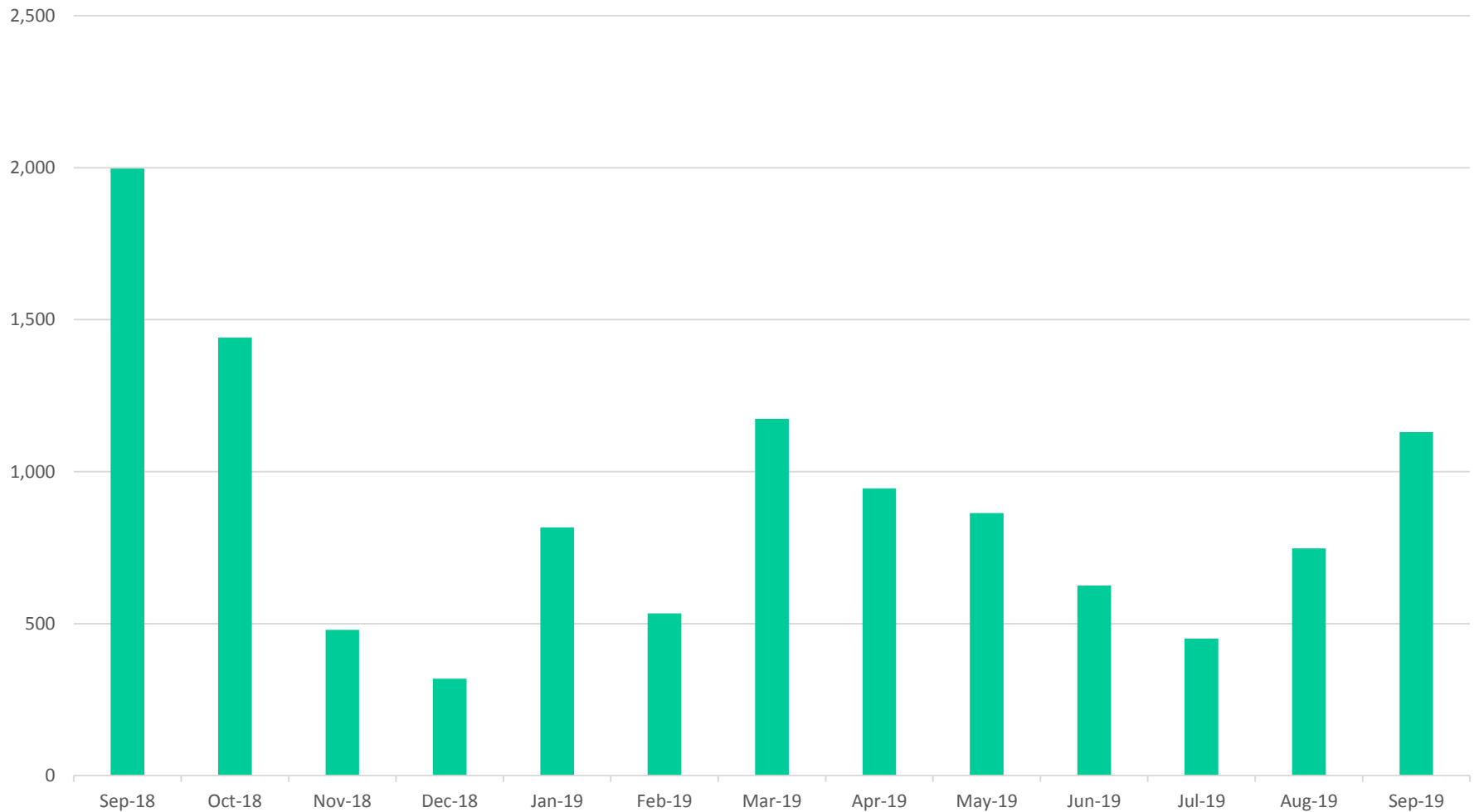| **0** Hide post | **0** Hide all posts |
| **0** Report as spam | **0** Unlike Page |

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

This is a hot topic…..

Digital policy statement Webpage page views: 11,328

Weird cycle?????

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Statement on young children and digital technologies—A summary

Practice advice for early childhood educators

Relationships

Principle: *Young children's relationships with adults and peers matter in digital contexts*

Practice advice:

1. Use digital technologies in early childhood education and care settings to promote social interactions between children, peers and adults.
2. Support children in turn-taking and learning to share when using digital technologies in collaboration with others.
3. Foster children's peer-to-peer interactions as opportunities for co-learning about and with digital technologies.
4. Model self-regulated digital technology use with children and families that recognises the importance of sustained social interactions between children and adults.
5. Create shared understandings between families, educators and services about digital technology use, by adults, in front of children.

Health and Wellbeing

Principle: *Young children's health and wellbeing is actively supported in digital contexts*

Practice advice:

1. Provide digital technology experiences for young children that promote movement opportunities.
2. Ensure children participate in both digital and non-digital activities to build strength and skills in their hands and fingers.
3. Ensure that screen-based digital technology use while sitting is only for short periods and does not replace periods of active physical movement.
4. Promote postural awareness and change by providing a variety of spaces and heights for children to use digital technologies.
5. Minimise screen glare and reflection and promote regular breaks with a variety of visual distances when using screen-based technologies.
6. Support families to understand that exposure to disturbing or arousing content and screens in the hour before sleep time decreases the length and quality of children's sleep.
7. Promote screen-free sleeping areas and the use of non-screen-based calming activities with children before nap times and evening bedtimes.
8. Help children develop self-regulation for using digital technologies and support them to transition from digital to non-digital activities.
9. Establish routines and structures that promote access to a variety of digital and non-digital activities in the early childhood education and care setting.

Citizenship

Principle: *Young children's citizenship is upheld and fostered in digital contexts*

Practice advice:

1. Participate in professional learning opportunities to build educator understanding about young children's digital rights and how these relate to young children's socioeconomic, geographic, gender and culturally based experiences in digital contexts.

2. Seek permission from children and families to use digital documentation, including photographs of children via social media and/or other digital documentation platforms.

3. Develop policies and guidelines about the collection, use, retention and deletion of digital data held about young children and families.

4. Ensure proactive adult supervision of young children's online activities, including the use of filters and restrictions on devices and networks in the early childhood education and care setting.

5. Maintain conversations with young children about their online experiences, both positive and negative, to ensure they are supported by adults in their online engagements.

6. Help children develop an understanding of the internet as a network that people use to generate, store, retrieve and share information.

7. Model internet use with children for learning purposes and provide opportunities for assessing the quality and relevance of information.

8. Direct families towards government and/or not-for-profit organisations for advice on the selection of digital media, content, apps and games that are appropriate for use by young children.

Play and Pedagogy

Principle: *Play and pedagogy promotes young children's exploration, social interaction, collaboration and learning in digital contexts*

Practice advice:

1. Provide opportunities for children to explore and experiment with the functions of a diverse range of digital technologies alongside adult modelling and instruction in digital technology use.
2. Promote play involving children in digital technology use with digital and non-digital tools and materials to build knowledge about the use of technologies for communication, collaboration and information sharing.
3. Seek young children's perspectives regarding the role and use of digital technologies in their own lives, play and learning.
4. Model active decision making regarding digital technology use with, by and for young children that provides a balance of digital and non-digital experiences and activities in early childhood education and care settings.

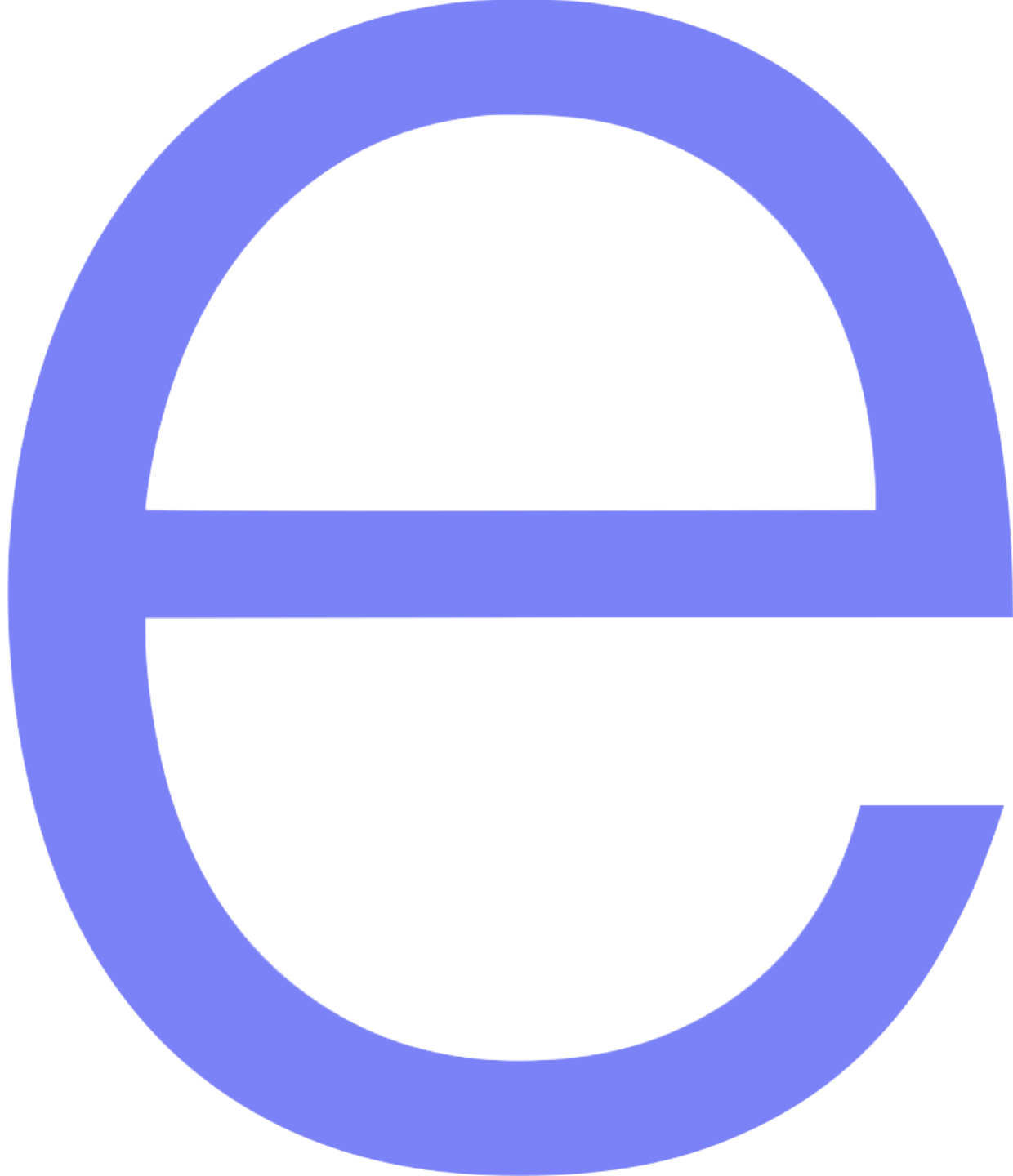# Discussion….
What intrigues, irritates or inspires you?

So what do we do now?

Stories from our communities of practice

For me…..

engage

extend

enrich

enable me to do something I can't do normally or **e**nable me to do something differently

Can we continue the conversation (constructively)

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