

**Learning Opportunity for Early Childhood Educators  
(No prior computer skills required)**

**Australian National Schools Network**

# Teaching Our Digital Kids Hub

Teaching our Digital Kids: Strategies to incorporate  
technology within a play based curriculum

*"Discovery consists of seeing what everybody  
has seen and thinking what nobody has thought"*

**Albert von Szent-Gyorgyi**



## The Australian National Schools Network

The Australian National Schools Network (ANSN) has a long, successful history in school reform and improvement. It is at the forefront of new thinking about learning, pedagogy, curriculum and school organisation and brings together teachers, schools, universities, teacher unions, government and non-government employers as a unique, nationwide learning community.



The ANSN leads, supports and promotes innovative teaching and learning practices across Australia. It builds on the expertise of its members. It uses what has been learned about successful practice. The network and its members nurture good ideas, develop them, try them out, evaluate the result and turn them into reality.

The ANSN extends and crosses boundaries. Its members are at the leading edge in their re-thinking of teaching and learning. They devise and explore innovative ways to improve educational outcomes. And they share their experience of what works best in the classroom.

In times of unprecedented change, the ANSN is building teacher and school leadership capacity in wide-ranging ways. They are helping their students become more flexible; more able to handle information in the knowledge society; more skilled in the use of new technologies; more prepared to handle changing demands and occupations during their later lives. The ANSN has created an exciting network that does exciting things for education.

As part of this important work, the ANSN is proud to offer early childhood educators (teachers of students aged 4-8) an opportunity to share and extend on the learning of

the highly successful national IBM KidSmart project by joining our latest networking initiative the Teaching Our Digital Kids hub.

## Background

In 2001, IBM and the ANSN partnered together to explore innovative way of engaging early childhood teachers in disadvantaged or rural communities in technology integration. Teachers were challenged to connect what they knew about how students learn through play and incorporate their knowledge to develop and explore new pedagogies (ways of teaching) that shifted the focus of computers and other technologies as isolated activities to being tools and environments for powerful engagement for all learners. Centres and Schools were supported by IBM through the provision of up to date computers and specifically designed early childhood workstations. The ANSN believed that having new computers, no matter how enticing they looked did not necessarily translate to a change in pedagogical practice, as a result the ANSN developed a 12 month program that supported teachers in training and professional development and more importantly a network of like minded teachers who were willing to explore and have a go at implementing new ways to teach our digital children.

We believe at the ANSN that the learnings of our KidSmart participants are vital skills and knowledge that all early childhood educators need to develop and implement. We also acknowledge that technology is changing so rapidly that exploring new ways to implement technology will be an on going challenge for us as educators.

The ANSN would like to extend an invitation for you to join us in our digital journey by joining the Teaching Our Digital Kids Hub to explore technology integration through a play based philosophy. ALL LEVELS OF COMPUTER SKILLS ARE WELCOME.

## Benefits of Membership

Teaching Our Digital Kids hub membership is for 12 months and includes the following benefits for clusters, schools, teachers and students:

- Provide participants with a wide variety of strategies, skills and resources to integrate technology within a play based curriculum
- Support teaching and learning innovation through a 12 month on going professional development program
- Improved student motivation and focus around integration tasks
- Address national and state initiatives for embedding technology into the curriculum
- Provide opportunities to work with teachers both locally and nationally

The Australian National Schools Network (ANSN)

The ANSN is a not-for-profit company that seeks to lead and support rethinking teaching and learning for a socially just world by fostering connections between people and schools nationally and internationally.

### Join the ANSN

*School Membership*  
\$275.00 per year (\$220 if your system is also a member.)  
*Individual Membership*  
\$ 55.00 per year  
[www.ansn.edu.au](http://www.ansn.edu.au) for further details and flyer.



## Purchasing a membership

The ANSN believes that professional learning is best undertaken in a collaborative way, with a team of teachers over an extended period of time. It is expected that the SAME team of THREE teachers attend each of the days. This is to help provide continuity not only of the learning undertaken, but also the development of professional relationships with colleagues from other schools.

The cost for a team of three teachers to attend all 5 days of professional development is \$2400 (inc GST). Cost to ANSN members or schools joining the ANSN is \$2000 (inc GST).

Small schools interested in joining are encouraged to share a membership with other local schools. This enables the establishment of a small supportive team of local teachers (a cluster) who can work together and share experiences, discuss issues and generally support each other.

Please secure your membership by filling in the registration form.

For more information contact Hanan Harrison via email:  
hanan.harrison@ansn.edu.au

## About Hanan Harrison

State Networker- Hanan Harrison is an educator who has developed a keen interest in pedagogy and innovative curriculum design. She has developed and implemented a number of detailed KidSmart Research Circles in Queensland since 2002 and NSW since 2005 and has developed a KidSmart facilitators planning program for state departments on implementing ideas for integrating information communication technologies (ICTs) through play based philosophy. Hanan is also currently employed in a number of other projects within the ANSN including Habits of Mind, Protocol Training and Dimensions of Learning. When she is not working for the ANSN, she also lectures part time to pre-service teachers at CQU Noosa hub, as well as supporting local schools in professional development circles around topics of pedagogy and curriculum design.



## Program outline

### Days 1 & 2

- Discovering and exploring effective strategies of integrating software (both closed and open) into 3 dimensional play learning experiences.

### Day 3

- Investigating the power of Digital Portfolios and the use of metacognitive strategies for reflection

### Day 4

- Looking at developing strategies to engage emergent readers including reluctant readers

### Day 5

- Exploring digital story telling medium including claymation and movie maker

Workshops can be personalised to meet needs and interest of participants



# ANSN Teaching Our Digital Kids Hub

## 1. Some preliminary matters

- (i) Please complete the details below and return to [hanan.harrison@ansn.edu.au](mailto:hanan.harrison@ansn.edu.au)
- (ii) Alternatively you can fax this form to **61 2 9590 3416**
- (iii) Returning this form confirms the school, or cluster's commitment to join the ANSN Dimensions of Learning Hub (for 12 months over a calendar year). An invoice will follow your registration.

## 2. Membership Details

Name of school

Are you an ANSN member?  Yes  No

Would you like to become an ANSN Member as part of this registration?  Yes  No

Number of memberships required

Main contact person for membership

Email of main contact person

  

Address for correspondence

State and Postcode

Phone

Fax Number

Please select venue options:

- Adelaide  Brisbane  Cairns  Canberra  Darwin  Perth  
 Lismore  Melbourne  Sunshine Coast  Sydney  Tasmania  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Billing Details

**Only to be completed if different to above**

  
  

Name and address for billing

Phone

Fax Number

## 4. Participant details:

Name	Email Address	Teaching Grade/Subject

For more information, contact:

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