# **Curriculum Resource**

Teaching Curriculum: Digital Technology and Media in the Early Year

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Ikon Institute of Australia ECUR 303: Digital Technology and Media in the Early Year

#### My Family Rules Song

The integration of song and story serves as a pedagogical strategy emphasising four fundamental online safety principles: ensuring personal safety, promoting kindness and empathy, seeking assistance when needed, and exercising sound decision-making. To cultivate a comprehensive comprehension of digital citizenship and promote safer and more responsible online conduct among children, it is imperative to implement measures that facilitate a well-rounded knowledge of digital use.

Music possesses a distinct capacity to captivate the attention of youngsters by employing repetitious lyrics and a catchy melody, so rendering their learning experience entertaining and facilitating the retention of transmitted contents within the song. The song serves to reaffirm fundamental tenets of digital citizenship, including promoting online safety, protecting privacy, and cultivating polite conduct towards other internet users. Additionally, the programme emphasises the importance of internet etiquette and manners, promoting the notion that children should provide the same level of respect and consideration to people online as they would in face-to-face interactions. The song further emphasises the importance of parents actively instructing individuals on how to navigate the internet realm securely and responsibly. It facilitates transparent communication and addresses potential online difficulties, such as cyberbullying. Engaging in ongoing dialogues with young children during their online encounters, encompassing both adverse and favourable experiences, can foster a feeling of reassurance as they see the backing of adult figures in their digital interactions (Early Childhood Australia [ECA], 2018).



Ask for help



Speak out



Making sound choices

#### Swoosh, Glide and Rule Number 5

Digital technology is utilised to facilitate communication and foster connections among family members residing in disparate locations, aiding in their reunion and encouraging mutual support. Including a fun component facilitates the establishment and



sustenance of robust interpersonal connections among children, enabling them to overcome geographical barriers and forge enduring bonds while creating treasured memories and enjoyable experiences.

The following guidelines outline the appropriate utilisation of digital technology. These reminders foster a perception of equity and collaboration while promoting substantial familial engagement and discourse during mealtime, free from any form of distraction. The utilisation of



technology within a communal environment facilitates the active participation and guidance of adults in the online endeavours of individuals. It is essential to foster practical communication skills among children and instil in them the need to seek permission before utilising electronic gadgets. Refraining from bringing electronic displays into bed is a commendable habit that contributes to preserving healthy sleep patterns and overall well-being (ECA, 2018).



Digital gadgets, such as the iPad, undoubtedly pleasure children. However, it is essential to acknowledge that these devices expose children to unforeseen and potentially distressing information, impacting their emotional well-being. The absence of adult supervision and direction can have a detrimental impact on the emotional well-being of individuals.

Children's sense of security and safety is enhanced when they have access to trusted people who can assist in situations when they have witnessed or encountered distressing content through their electronic devices.





Establishing constructive communication channels between children and adults facilitates the children's ability to seek assistance when required. Additionally, it is beneficial for adults to be knowledgeable about their children's difficulties when using digital tools.





Digital technology provides immediate pleasure for families, enabling them to refine their abilities and articulate their creative concepts through musical expression. Engaging in musical play and dance allows children to discover diverse auditory stimuli and music originating from different cultures worldwide. This activity fosters a sense of joy and facilitates pleasant familial experiences. Additionally, this feature allows users to conveniently access news information and see preferred programs, reducing knowledge acquisition and exposure to a wide range of viewpoints about world events and concerns.

## Analysis of the Story

This illustrated book centres on the escapades of Swoosh and Glide as they partake in an enjoyable familial overnight stay alongside their sugar glider relatives. The study also investigates individuals' routine encounters in the online realm, explicitly addressing the optimal course of action when confronted with unforeseen events on their screens and experiencing uncertainty over the appropriate response. Furthermore, this underscores the importance of securely employing digital technology for all household members. Swoosh demonstrates a growing awareness of responsible internet usage by discerning the shift in the video's content from enjoyable to unpleasant. Consequently, he elects to discontinue viewing the footage, promptly deactivates the iPad, and actively seeks guidance from adult figures. Establishing guidelines for the use of digital technology is a crucial measure in facilitating children's comprehension of both the advantageous and detrimental consequences that may arise from its improper usage. Touchscreen devices allow children to independently access online information across several digital platforms, like Swoosh, without requiring adult assistance. However, this unrestricted access exposes them to potential risks associated with unsuitable content, compromising their sense of safety.

Therefore, providing secure online experiences for children within their homes cultivates citizenship values such as respect, tolerance, and the avoidance of discrimination. Additionally, it facilitates the development of pro-social behaviour and creates possibilities for learning (ECA, 2018).

## **Kiya's Birthday**



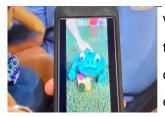


Kiya is anticipating the arrival of her birthday and intends to employ digital technology to extend invitations to her pals. Upon reviewing her contact list, she encountered an unfamiliar phone number needing an associated identity or visual representation. The individual opted against extending an invitation due to their lack of familiarity with the recipient, which provided them with a sense of security. The left image depicts the scenario when Kiya, after placing an online order for her birthday, received a visit from a carrier who required her signature as evidence of receipt. However, due to the unavailability of a ballpoint pen, the airline resorted to an alternative, practical method of acknowledging the delivery.

Kiya's birthday celebration would be deemed complete with the presence of a birthday cake. Consequently, her buddy Humpy contemplates crafting a cake just for this occasion. However, Humpy is uncertain which type of cake would be most suitable for the event. The individual directed their gaze towards the computer screen for the desired design. Using the laptop enables him to access information efficiently, resulting in time-saving



benefits while seeking solutions. The image on the left side of the visual representation illustrates that technological advancements facilitate Kiya's imaginative and creative abilities. The user can capture a screenshot of the video and convert it into an image format. This picture may be customised by applying the user's preferred colour scheme for decorative purposes.



Video calling has been a widely utilised digital platform in contemporary times. For instance, when Kiya's buddy could not attend her birthday celebration, he opted to engage in a video chat to convey his regrets and ensure that Kiya was informed of his inability to join the gathering. Emma contacted her extended relatives to communicate and discuss her educational encounters. Emma utilises video technology to present her traditional attire and performance to her extended family members who are geographically distant. The individual takes great pride in offering her dances while adorned in a resplendent hanbok attire.



#### Analysis

The celebration of Kiya's momentous birthday occurs. She and her fellow play school peers participate in online educational activities. The film emphasises four fundamental concepts: ensuring safety, promoting kindness, seeking assistance when needed, and making wise decisions.

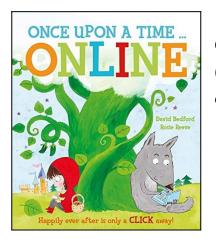
"Be Safe" discusses the interconnectedness of digital technology and gadgets, highlighting the potential for unknown individuals to initiate contact with anyone. For example, Kiya exercises caution while extending invitations to those she is not acquainted with for her birthday party.

Within the "Be Kind" concept framework, it is proposed that individuals should conscientiously seek consent before shooting an image of another person. This practice exemplifies a commendable approach, demonstrating considerate regard for the desires of others. An illustrative instance may be observed in the scenario where Kiya's acquaintance, Ted, expresses his refusal to be photographed, highlighting the need to honour individual boundaries.

The significance of seeking assistance, particularly among young children, is emphasised. The idea is shown by Kiya's decision to seek help from her play school classmate when faced with unforeseen technology-related challenges. Adults must respond positively in such circumstances, fostering an environment where youngsters perceive support rather than criticism.

Finally, the "Make Good Choices" programme aims to foster appropriate screen time management and encourage young children to reflect on their choices when participating in different activities. The film contains the instruction Emily's parents and relatives provided, which serves as a fundamental basis for properly utilising digital technologies. Developing The imperative emphasises developing beneficial habits early in life to seek assistance and promote conscientious screen time use. (ECA, 2018).

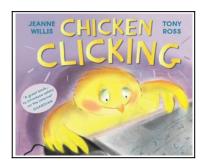
# **Children's Picture Books**



Once Upon a Time Online (Authors: David Bedford and Rosie Reeve) eBook Link : <u>https://www.overdrive.com/media/3134676/once-upon-a-time-online</u> (Onedrive, n.d)

## **Literary Analysis**

Fellowes and Oakley (2019) assert that the visual depictions inside the book effectively convey the story presented in the textual text. Once Upon a Time Online" appears to effectively convey the importance of digital balance and etiquette through relatable characters and relatable situations. The book likely provides a relatable platform for discussions about technology use and encourages young readers to find a healthy equilibrium between their online and offline experiences. While there may be opportunities for further exploration and discussion, the story's lessons are likely to resonate with children and promote responsible digital citizenship. By learning safety practices, children are empowered to take control of their online activities and make informed decisions (Australian Government Department of Education [AGDE], 2022).



Chicken Clicking (Author Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross) eBook Link: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRQglbfGfTU</u> (Booktopia, n.d)

#### **Literary Analysis**

According to Fellowes and Oakley (2019), the visual representations in the book effectively communicate the narrative depicted in the written content. Children's comprehension of patterns and design is augmented when they recognise these components through artistic representations and the use of colours within the narrative. The narrative depicting a chicken's unauthorised entry into the farmer's abode and subsequent utilisation of a computer imparts valuable lessons about

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appropriate conduct to young individuals.

The chicken experiences a sense of excitement and satisfaction through online shopping, acquiring various items for personal use and the benefit of fellow farm inhabitants. This activity is closely associated with the realm of digital commerce. Children must comprehend the importance of developing practical consumer skills within the digital economy, as highlighted by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE, 2022, as cited in Michlmayr, 2023, p. 19). The individual's heightened emotional state motivates her to establish a connection with a novel acquaintance, covertly instigating a desire to arrange an in-person encounter. However, it transpires that he encounters the astute fox, which unveils the perils associated with internet connections for children. Furthermore, it fosters the development of critical thinking skills in children by prompting them to reflect on the potential consequences of their activities inside digital environments. Including narratives such as the one mentioned in the context of Early Childhood Education can contribute to cultivating digital literacy competencies among young learners. This, in turn, empowers them to traverse the digital realm with a sense of responsibility effectively, make well-informed choices, and engage in online interactions securely (AGDE, 2022).

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