

Keynote Presentation

Digitising Early Childhood Conference 2018

Professor Susan Danby

Social encounters of the digital kind

Abstract:

Young children's participation in digital worlds at home and school often involve social encounters with family members, peers and educators. Through video ethnographies of young children engaged in a range of digital activities, we explore their participation frameworks. A focus on their social organisation of talk and embodied action offers insights into digitally mediated interactions where children negotiate with each other, scaffold each other's learning, and engage in pretend and spontaneous play, all while engaging and experimenting with digital technologies. Showing how moment-by-moment talk unfolds makes visible the participation practices of home and classroom life. Far from silencing children, what is being seen and done on the digital screen supports a multitude of opportunities for social interaction that are complex, sustained and multifaceted.



Susan Danby is Professor in the School of Early Childhood and Inclusive Education at the Queensland University of Technology, Australia. My experiences span diverse educational contexts, in Australia and the USA in government, not-for-profit organisations, social service agencies, and universities. I have led large-scale research projects in the fields of children's digital lives, classroom practices and curriculum, and interactions involving family, counselling and clinical palliative care interactions involving children. In my Australian Research Council Future Fellowship, I explored young children's everyday practices with digital technologies across home and school.

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