

## Digital childhoods and multimodal lives

Nicola Yelland  
Professor of Education  
College of Arts and Education  
Victoria University  
Melbourne  
Australia

This paper will summarise the findings from a four year iPad project with young children in preschool and the early years of school. The project explored the pedagogies that could encourage and support multimodal learning in contemporary educational settings. Working alongside teachers, we sought to discover how tablet technologies can enhance and extend the use of traditional materials to enable young children to become literate and numerate in the 21st century. This paper describes some of the ways in which this was achieved, as well as encouraging the use of '21st century skills'; creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication.

**Nicola Yelland** is a Research Professor in the College of Arts and Education at Victoria University in Melbourne Australia. Her teaching and research interests have been related to the use of new technologies in school and community contexts. She has also worked in East Asia and examined the culture and curriculum of early childhood settings. Nicola's work engages with educational issues with regard to varying social, economic and political conditions and thus requires multidisciplinary perspectives. Recent publications include; *Reimagining play with new technologies*. In L. Arnott (Ed.) *Digital technologies and learning in the early years*. (London, UK: SAGE) and Yelland, N.J. & Leung, W.M. Policy into practice in Hong Kong pre-primary kindergartens: the impact of a reform agenda viewing early childhood as the foundation for lifelong learning. *International Journal of Early Years*. She is the editor of a new collection to be published in 2018 with Dana Franz-Bentley; *Found in translation: Connecting reconceptualist thinking with contemporary early childhood practices*. (New York: Routledge). Nicola is the founding co-editor of two journals *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood* and *Global Studies of Childhood* and the Series Editor of *Changing Images of Early Childhood* with Routledge (New York).