



National Centre for Technology in Education
Ionad Náisiúnta don Teicneolaíocht san Oideachas

Using a digital camera in the infant classroom

One of the most effective and accessible technologies in the infant classroom is the digital camera. It can stimulate great creativity and enthusiasm for learning among younger pupils. Used with an interactive whiteboard and presentation or other software, simple and effective digital learning resources can be created by both teachers and pupils. Consider using it in the following ways in your infant classroom.

Supporting literacy

- ✦ Creating a **personalised book** – pupils love to read books about themselves, especially with their own photos.
- ✦ Taking pictures of objects in the classroom and the pupils using the pictures to learn the names for them (i.e. book, pencil, table). The pupils can compile these into a book, which they can read.
- ✦ Sequencing books – photograph particular sequences and ask the pupil to order each set. (Making a cup of tea, sandwich, etc.).
- ✦ Taking photographs of the pupils carrying out different activities and displaying them on the interactive whiteboard as a stimulus for discussion ‘Who is in the picture?’ ‘What is he doing?’ ‘Why is he doing this?’

Supporting numeracy

- ✦ Pupils go on a shape hunt to find shapes in the local environment. These are then compiled into a shape book.
- ✦ Teacher creates a maths trail around the school using the digital camera.
- ✦ Pupils create visual images for each step of the number stories i.e. 0+1, 1+1, 2+1, 3+1 etc and photograph each step to create a book detailing ‘The Story of ...’.
- ✦ Spot the Difference – take a photo of a particular area of the classroom, e.g., a sink area with five paint bottles on a Monday. Take another photo on Tuesday but remove a red paint bottle and



ask the children to see if they can spot the difference.

Special educational needs

- ✦ Creating a visual timetable for pupils.
- ✦ Taking photos of different faces showing various emotions to assist with social development for pupils with autistic spectrum disorders.
- ✦ Allowing exceptionally able pupils to create documentaries on a particular topic or to record the individual steps in a process for their peers.
- ✦ Creating picture cues for daily tasks, i.e. washing hands, taking out lunch etc.

The digital camera can also be used to create a simple **e-portfolio** for assessment purposes. The teacher photographs samples of the pupils’ work across the different subject areas over the course of the year, tracking their progress. The images can be saved individually by date in a specific folder. Alternatively, the

images can be collated into a presentation or a photostory file, which can be saved in the pupils’ name.

The digital camera is just one of the technologies covered in NCTE’s new course, ‘ICT for Literacy and Numeracy in the Infant Classroom’, available this summer in Education Centres and other venues around the country. Other technologies used include Skype, Visualisers, Twitter (yes, infant classes are tweeting!) and interactive whiteboards. There will also be plenty of tips and ideas for classroom management when using ICT in the infant classroom.

In addition, the course content shows how ICT can support and facilitate the implementation of the *Aistear* framework.

For more information, log on to www.ncte.ie/training. Places are limited so early booking is advised!

Compiled by Madeleine Murray, National Coordinator, NCTE.

NCTE summer courses and online resources

Four NCTE summer courses are already proving very popular so please check with your local education centre for availability.

- *Scratch* programming and Numeracy in Senior Primary Classes (NCTE/Lero).
- NCTE: Using ICT for Literacy and Numeracy in the Infant Classroom.
- NCTE: Creating and Using ICT Resources for Literacy.
- NCTE: Using the Interactive Whiteboard to

support Literacy (Whole School Training only). For this year’s summer courses, NCTE is publishing course materials mainly in online format. These will be available in the ‘Training’ section of the NCTE website and include ideas for classroom application, links to good practice videos of ICT in use and video tutorials.

For more information on NCTE summer courses and online materials for CPD, see www.ncte.ie/training.