1.2   DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES POLICY - CHILDREN

INTRODUCTION

Technological developments in society have had considerable impact on the lives of today's children and families. Children today, need to be able use a computer with confidence in order to adjust to their future roles of citizens of a highly technological society.

A computer, like any of the Montessori materials in the classroom, is a tool with which to think, investigate, explore, communicate, express ideas, and solve problems.

At Lindfield Montessori School, independent use of digital technology is usually limited to children in the extended day program. Learning experiences will be programmed in accordance with NESA requirements. This decision is based upon the following developmental reasons:

- Children need real life, multisensory experiences, particularly tactile
- Children learn when physically active
- Children need activities that promote discovery and experimentation with concrete materials

Hands on experiences provide the children with multi-sensory input, logical feedback, the opportunity to develop real skills and creativity. Once the Montessori materials have been manipulated and mastered, computer software may complement the curriculum and allow the child to move to a more abstract level of cognition.

PURPOSE

- To develop an understanding of the use of digital technologies
- To develop confidence in the process of using digital technologies
- To experience practical applications of basic computer programs
- To understand the role digital technologeis play in our lives to compliment what we already do

The computer/iPad may also be used to show educational programs to the children. We may, from time to time consult the internet to look up a fact we are unsure of, however, these will always be adult led and supervised.

We are guided by advice from Dr Kristy Goodwin outlining that children must meet basic needs of their day, e.g. rest, proper nutrition, adequate outdoor play and movement and opportunities to strengthen hand muscles prior to being offered any digital options in their learning.

Relevant Legislation	Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. Reg. 73-76
	Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010 Section 168
Related to NQS QA	1.1, 1.2
Related Policies	Programming Statement
Sources & Further Reading	

POLICY REVIEWED	MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE
January 2022	Checked regulations, updated copy	2024