How it started

Before starting the kindergarten year, Amy received a special packet of sunflower seeds from Mrs Smith, her kindergarten teacher. Amy was encouraged to plant the seeds at home and watch them grow as she waited to start kindergarten in 2014. Mrs Smith said that Amy could even take photos if she liked and bring them into kindergarten. Amy thought that that was a very good idea and asked her mother if together they could take photos of her sunflowers as they grew.

What happened next

Our kindergarten class has been exploring the Doodle Buddy and Book Creator apps on their iPads. Amy decided that she would like to make her own ‘Sunflower book’ with these apps during her kindergarten day, so last week Amy brought her photos to kindergarten on her flash drive. Amy loaded her photos and selected the five that she thought told her story. Using the Doodle Buddy app, she arranged her photos sequentially, numbering them with her index finger and skilfully negotiating the app without assistance from educators. After marking a measuring line next to the flowers, Amy looked at Mrs Smith and said, ‘Look how my sunflower grew taller and taller, see!’ Amy then placed her pictures into Book Creator. ‘I could email this to Mum, you know’, Amy said … and she did!

What it means

Through using the iPad to document her own learning experience, Amy demonstrated her confidence in using ICTs independently. This experience also enabled her to develop her literacy and numeracy understandings by exploring story structure along with numerical order, early measurement concepts, and recording numbers accurately and sequentially.

Links to the QKLG

Communicating: A kindergarten child who is an effective communicator explores and engages with literacy and numeracy in personal meaningful ways.

Active learning: A kindergarten child who is a confident and involved learner explores tools, technologies and information and communication technologies (ICTs).

Links to NQS

Standard 2: 2.6 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Opportunities and possibilities

- Growing sunflowers at kindergarten, harvesting the seeds and then replanting (lifecycle of a sunflower). Link to QKLG: Connectedness: A kindergarten child who is connected with and contributes to their world shows increasing respect for environments.
- Children will be provided with further opportunities to document this in small groups. Link to QKLG: Communicating: A kindergarten child who is an effective communicator explores and engages with literacy and numeracy in personal meaningful ways.

Additional comments

I observed Amy rearranging the resources on the craft trolley today. She seems to have really grasped the concept of sequencing! (Tania, teaching assistant, 18 March)