



Your Place - Your Pace

The Learning Place: The early Learning Place



This article is available online at www.education.qld.gov.au/learningplace email: learningplace@qed.qld.gov.au Phone: (07) 3421 6656

Focus on: Parents login to Prep classroom

When parents, grandparents or friends want to catch up with what's happening in Diane Gall's Prep class at Vienna Woods State School, they'll soon be able to do so at any time they like – even outside school hours.

And they'll be able to do it from home, interstate or overseas.

They'll simply log onto a blog, *Sharing Our Prep World*.

"I saw a blog as a great opportunity to share what we do in the classroom with extended families and the community," Prep teacher and Learning Place Mentors Ms Gall said.

"By logging onto the blog, everyone in the children's lives can be involved in their learning. They can see photos of what we're doing, read the children's own words, and then add their own comments and ideas. They can be part of the children's amazing journey as they explore, wonder and hypothesise about their world."

Ms Gall said that her aim was to give people an insight into the Prep day. She said that in 2005 her class had a "daily reflection book" available to everyone in the classroom and to parents.

"But people's lives are very busy and many family members can't get to the classroom. I'd become very aware of blogs

and their potential, and thought I could use one to make daily reflections much more dynamic, and much more accessible."

Ms Gall has been working with the Learning Place to set up a blog in a secure, password-protected online environment.

"I'm hoping the blog will encourage parents and relations to become a part of their child's education," Ms Gall said.

"Parents have valuable skills and can add their input and become involved. For example, last year we were talking about chocolate and how it's made. The children set up a chocolate factory. A father and grandparents wanted to be involved, and they spent two weeks making a moving conveyor belt for the children. A blog will spread the word about what we're doing even faster."

Ms Gall said the blog would be "up and running" in second term. She believes it will provide an excellent opportunity for dialogue between the different partnerships that enhance learning. "I hope it'll result in a dynamic place where everyone feels included, at ease, and busting to be involved!"

For more information visit:
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The moving conveyor belt for the class chocolate factory was made by a dad and grandparents.

Professional learning communities

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) are proving to be an efficient way for educational groups to meet to do business.

For instance, *Year two key teachers* is an active Cairns and Cape district group who meet online to discuss issues, share ideas and resources, participate in professional development, in-service new Key Teachers (and teachers new to the Year 2 Diagnostic Net) as well as developing professional development frameworks for use in all our schools.

Read more by navigating from the Learning Place home page to Communities then on to PLCs where the Far North Queensland Learning Community is listed.

Upcoming events

Under Eights Week 2006
 Celebrate Under Eights Week – Celebration of 50 Years
 Friday, May 19 to Friday, May 26, 2006.

EduSites



Creature features

This site from the ABC contains interactive games, songs, puzzles, drawing and craft ideas.

Australian animals – mammals

Math cats

The science toy maker home page

KidsPsych



0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Students add clothes to the washing on the line, count a family and place numerals, words and dot patterns in correct order.

The following learning objects are from The Learning Federation



Golden fleece

Basic information about sheep and the wool industry is presented in an interactive, appealing format for beginners. A mystery object game is included.

Caving

Students explore a limestone cave, identify glow worms, bats and rock features such as stalactites and match pictures to labels.

Monster choir: look and listen

Make sounds in order. Match sounds to a shape pattern and repeat pattern to make a song. This

learning object is one in a series of three objects.

Digital resources



Nipper lifesavers on a Sydney beach, 1987

This reproducible image of a relay race has many applications.



New children coming to school in 1925

Footage from a documentary gives an interesting view on clothing of the period.

Find the above resources in the CX resource centre:
<http://learningplace.eq.edu.au/cx/resources>

Early Phase of Learning gateway

This is a brand new collection of resources to support children, teachers and administrators in the Early Phase of Learning.

www.education.qld.gov.au/tal/curriculum_exchange/teachers/epl/

TIPS



Using interactive whiteboard technology in the early phase of learning
 Involved young students using ICT effectively in a whole class setting.



Life at the beginning of the rainbow: Integration of ICTs in Preschool
 Describes exciting ICT projects in-

cluding some which used a digital camera and computer microscope.

Rosie and literacy and numeracy development

Highfields Prep's zoo
 Using the digital camera in Year 1

Search for these and other relevant TIPS, now also available in the CX resource centre.

<http://learningplace.eq.edu.au/cx/resources>

Hot topics

Trial full-time preparatory year is a collection of high quality, across-the-curriculum resources.

Visit the Hot topic link on the Curriculum Exchange front page to find this item under "Catering for all learners".

Check out other Hot topics, for example:

- *Six thinking hats*
- *Multiple intelligences*
- *Making sense of writing*

www.education.qld.gov.au/tal/curriculum_exchange/