

Foreword

WHO SHOULD READ AND USE THIS BOOK?

This book is primarily designed to assist early childhood educators who teach preschoolers, kindergartners, or primary-grade children to integrate digital images into teaching. Although the text is not directed at parents, parents may find some of the applications pertinent to their role as their child's first teacher. Another population that would benefit from the book and CD are preservice teachers or college students who are in the process of becoming professional educators. Additionally, teacher educators might use this as a text for college coursework, and trainers might use it as a resource.

THIS BOOK IS . . .

This book is a compendium of concrete examples for integrating digital technology, specifically digital images such as photographs and clip art, into curriculum and assessment materials, as well as into tools for communicating with parents. The ideas presented are applicable to all children. That is, young children with special needs, except those with vision deficits, benefit from the use of photos in the same way that any young child benefits. In some instances, using photos assists some special populations; these will be noted in the text. English-language learners also benefit from seeing photos, because they can provide a context for understanding English as a foreign language. Children who are pictured in the examples are both typically and atypically developing children and both English-language speakers and English-language learners.

After establishing a theoretical foundation for using this type of technology in early childhood environments, the reader is given an overview of hardware, software, and consumables to get started in using digital images. The primary software application that is demonstrated throughout the book is PowerPoint. Typically part of the Microsoft Office Suite software package, PowerPoint is one of the most available software programs for

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both Macintosh and PC users. However, other software applications are mentioned.

A variety of applications is presented, from documenting growth to integrating digital photos into curriculum areas. The reader will be guided to use the PowerPoint application as a means of developing materials. Suggestions for using digital photos to enhance development in all the developmental domains (social/emotional development, language development, cognitive development, and motor development) and typical primary subject areas are offered. Additionally, guidelines for using digital images to communicate with parents, as well as for documenting children's growth and development in a pictorial portfolio, are presented. The reader will learn how photos can assist with classroom management, promote language and literacy, and be used to develop curriculum materials. Children can use cameras, too, as a parent/child activity entitled "Take Home Snappy!" Digital photos can be utilized to communicate with staff about how to use materials with children. Photo images can be used for a variety of fundraisers. Digital technology can assist teachers and parents in the important work they do to help all children grow, develop, and gain skills.

This book presents many applications for digital photography, but there are many more uses for readers to discover on their own. When one becomes adept at using digital images, a new vista of possibilities presents itself. It is hoped that using digital images will increase your imagination as you are inspired to use your own creativity and expand the boundaries of what is presented here.

THIS BOOK IS NOT . . .

This book is not a how-to manual for selecting or using digital cameras or other equipment, nor is it book to teach computer literacy skills. Although some technological hardware and software are discussed briefly, it is up to the readers to investigate these further on their own. It is expected that users have some basic computer literacy skills.

THE CD IS . . .

The CD is a supplement to the book. It contains many user-friendly templates so that busy child care providers, teachers, and parents can readily and quickly implement some of the ideas presented in the book. The PowerPoint platform is used for the templates. The CD also contains Microsoft Word document versions of forms that are presented in the book.

THE CD IS NOT . . .

The CD is not a complete collection of everything that the early childhood educator, primary-grade teacher, college student or instructor, professional trainer, or parent might do with digital images. However, it is hoped that the examples presented on the CD will be modified or expanded by the users as they gain confidence and competence in utilizing them. Because of copyright issues, clip art is not demonstrated on the CD; only the author's original photos are used.