

iPads in Kindergarten

Documentation

One of the biggest perks of using iPads in kindergarten classrooms is that they make it so easy to document and share children's learning. From the built-in camera, to voice recording, to screenshots from apps, iPads are a great tool for documentation.



iPad cameras are a great built-in tool for documenting children's learning.

Tip: Give yourself a chance to get to know the iPad camera app before introducing it to children. Start by opening the app, tapping the screen to focus, and then push the white button to take a picture. Once you're comfortable with it, begin introducing the camera to children in small groups or individually. You can use your photos for documentation, or use children's self-directed creations.

Documenting learning

Documentation sources can come from your observations and recordings, or they can come straight from children's work. You can quickly snap a photo or quick video of children practicing a



new skill. You can also get children behind the camera, taking pictures of their work, or even of themselves in selfie mode. (To switch to selfie mode, enter the photos app and tap the camera icon on the top right of your screen.) Make sure to back up your iPads regularly to keep track of all those wonderful photos and videos. You can make it part of your weekly routine to back-up your iPads on your school's computer.

Using the photos

Once you've chosen your favourite photo or video moments, there are a number of ways that you can share them with families of the children in your care. But before you share anything, take time to review your school's policy on media sharing.

Once you have clear permission, you can go ahead and upload your photos to the school computer, email, password-protected social media and websites, and newsletters. If parents bring in an Apple device, you can even share directly to their device by using the "Air Drop" feature. Simply swipe up from the bottom of the iPad screen to bring up the menu and turn on Air Drop. Select the photo from the photo menu and tap the share icon in the top right. Once both devices have Air Drop enabled, you'll be able to see the second device. Tap the icon of that device to share the photo.



Tip: Keep a handful of prompts in mind for helping children focus their documentation. Ask questions like "What do you think the room would look like if you were a tiny mouse? Can you show me by taking a picture?" Or leave it completely child-directed! Children have so many wonderful ways of sharing ideas.

