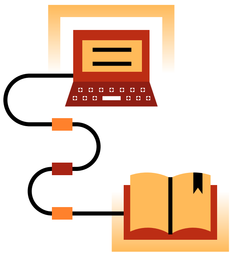
D2L BRIGHTSPACE

How Schools Can Develop Digital Literacy in Young Learners

A century ago, we discovered vitamins E and D; now, we have recreational space travel. The key to keeping up with the exponential changes in technology is digital literacy. This means understanding technology well enough to keep up with it as it changes, a skill that is crucial to succeeding in the modern world.

Effective digital literacy starts in childhood. In a 2019 report called *Digital Literacy for Children: Exploring Definitions and Framework*, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) called the importance of digital literacy in kids and adults "paramount," noting that "schools play a role in the acquisition of digital competencies including creativity when integrating digital technology as an active learning tool." One example of this integrated digital technology: the right learning management system (LMS).



Benefits of Digital Literacy for Early Learners

There are numerous benefits of developing digital literacy in younger students. These include:

Building hard skills that set students up for socializing, learning and working in the modern world

Leveling "the field of opportunity" for students by providing equal education opportunities

Fostering soft skills like problem-solving and resourcefulness by empowering children to find answers

How an LMS Can Help Young Learners Become Digitally Literate

Getting young learners familiar with technology early can lay the foundation for lifelong digital literacy. An LMS:

Incorporates technology into the classroom and familiarizes kids with tech from a young age

- Students learn to switch between digital and physical, especially, grasping tech use so that user interface doesn't become a barrier

21%

of 42,000 eighth-grade students surveyed could work independently with computers as information-gathering and management tools[1]

71%

of K-12 teachers surveyed saw personalized learning in a positive light, calling it either "one of many school improvement strategies available to me," a "promising idea" or a "transformational way to improve public education"[2]

Enables personalized learning environments to ensure students still get the in-person attention they need

- An LMS can augment and improve traditional instruction by allowing for asynchronous learning, which creates a more inclusive environment for family schedules

Helps prepare students to become good digital citizens

- It's important that they know how to use it for good. From identifying misinformation to cyberbullying, digitally literate students make better choices with the power of technology

47.7%

of kids ages 6–10 have been bullied either online or in person: survey[3]

Support Digital Literacy in Your District

Learn how to create a Blended Learning Environment using D2L Brightspace

References

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