### Apps and Software in Early Childhood Classrooms: A Continuum of Teaching Tools

Kate Highfield, Faculty of Human Sciences, Macquarie University <u>@kateytwit</u> <u>kate.highfield@mq.edu.au</u> Increasingly young children have access to a broad range of engaging technologies including educational software, web based resources, interactive multimedia and Apps. While many of these resources have the opportunity to positively enhance learning and play, teachers also need to consider the pedagogic approaches afforded by these tools. Further, we need to reflect on the design of technology tools and on how this changes children's engagement and learning.

#### This session will:

- •Explore some of the amazing technology resources available for teaching and learning with young children.
- •Discuss how the design of interactive multimedia, educational software and Apps alter, enhance or enable teaching and learning with young children
- Investigate some of the pedagogical and philosophical decisions that educators make about the use of technology in learning and play.

## Who am I?

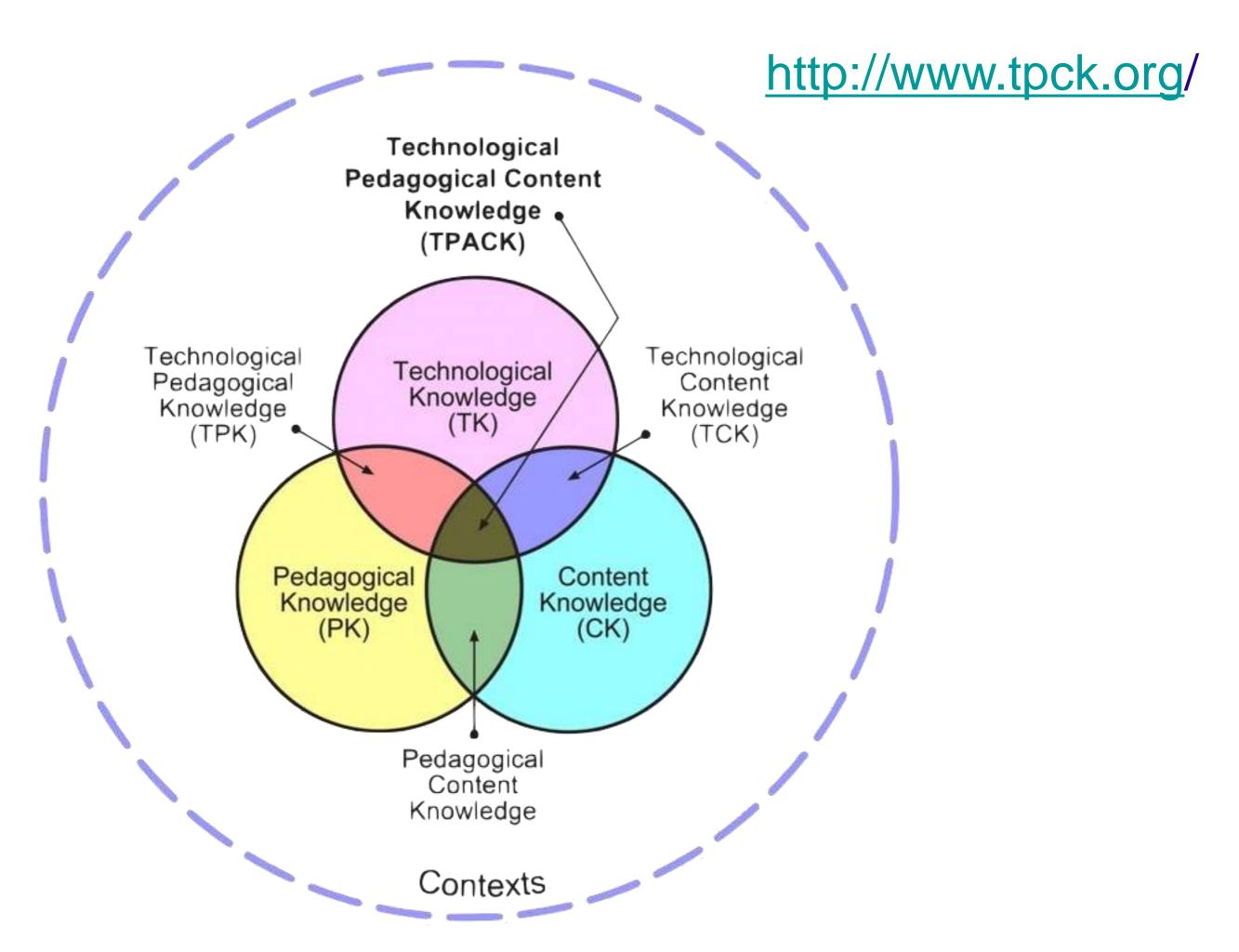
And may I introduce Dr Kristy Goodwin? http://everychancetolearn.com.au/



Image from: <a href="http://www.mcgill.ca/news-archives/2004/spring/mathieu/">http://www.mcgill.ca/news-archives/2004/spring/mathieu/</a>

## Question time: Our background impacts us as teachers





Question time: Who is out there and where are you teaching?

## we need to critically reflect.... to we need to critically reflect... know our children and our goals for their learning to rediscover the art 1. the function of the attaching cher; teaching. 2. the art of teaching; pedagogics. pedagogy the principles, practice, or profession of teaching

## Technology is a tool



## Screens???



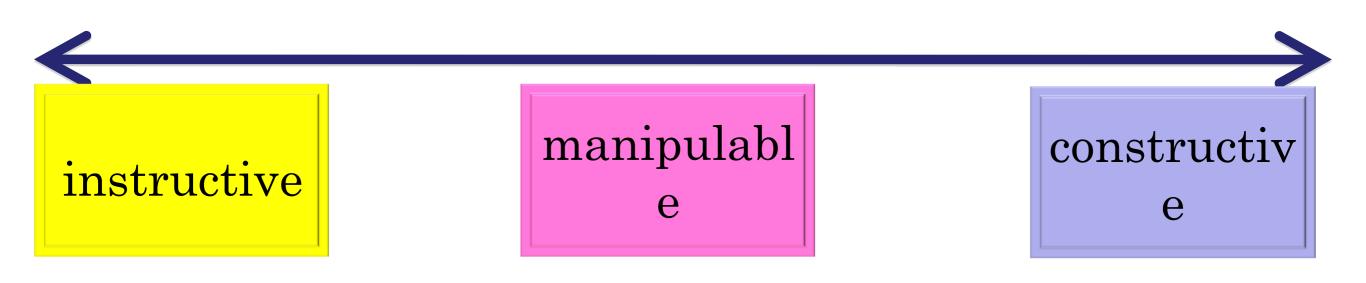
mobilebehavior.com

# Today we seek best practice...

Consider the tool's affordances and your pedagogic goal

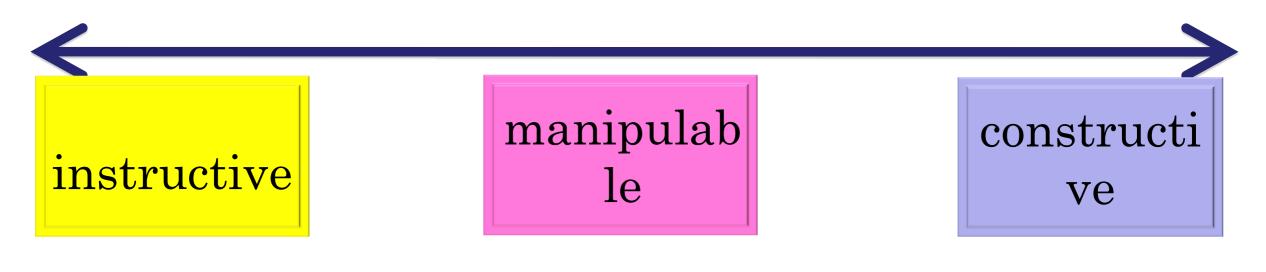


## Classification of Pedagogical Design



#### Goodwin & Highfield, 2012 "iTouch and iLearn"







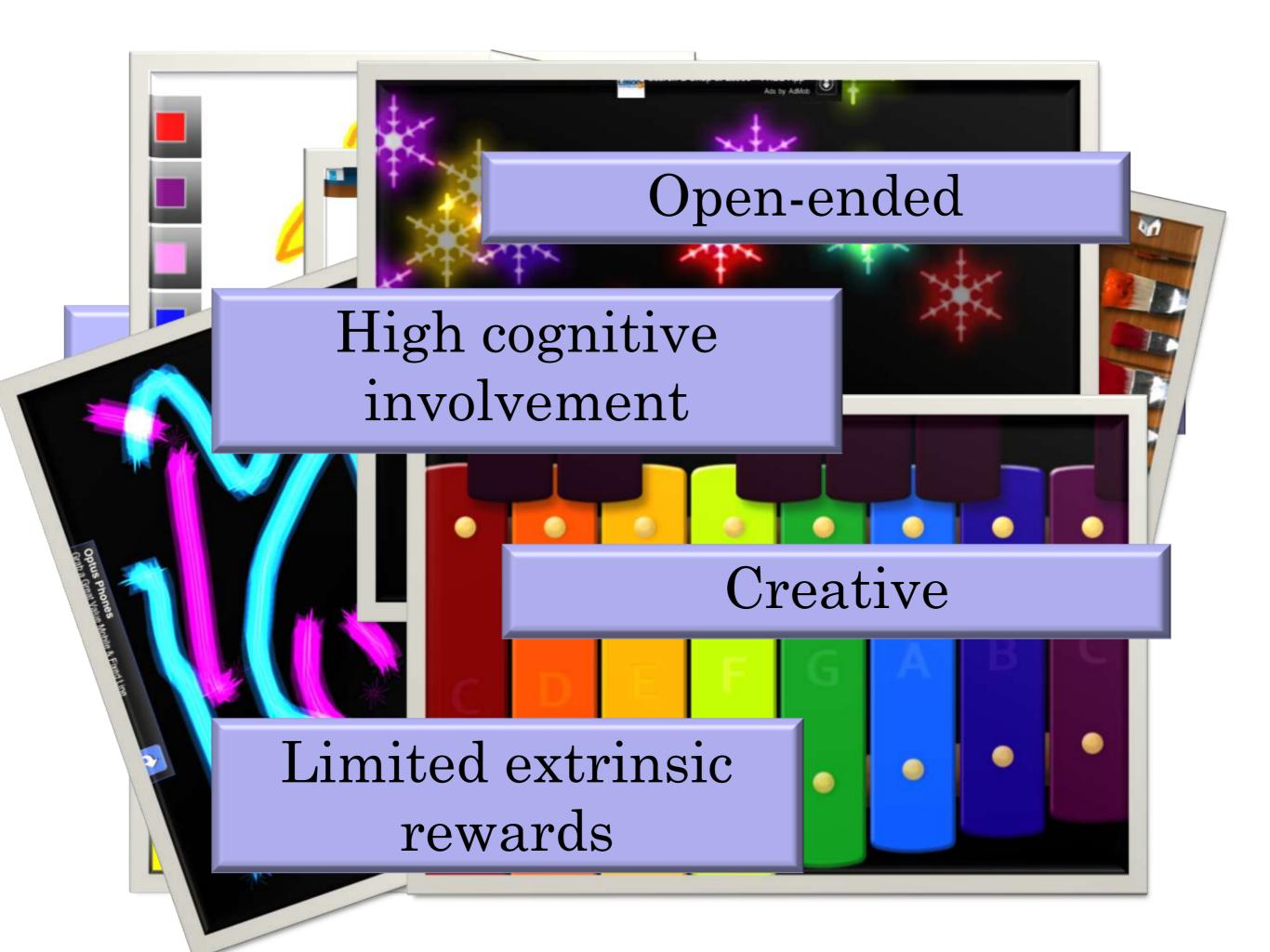








#### http://www.abc.net.au/abcforkids/sites/playschool/a bout/apps/

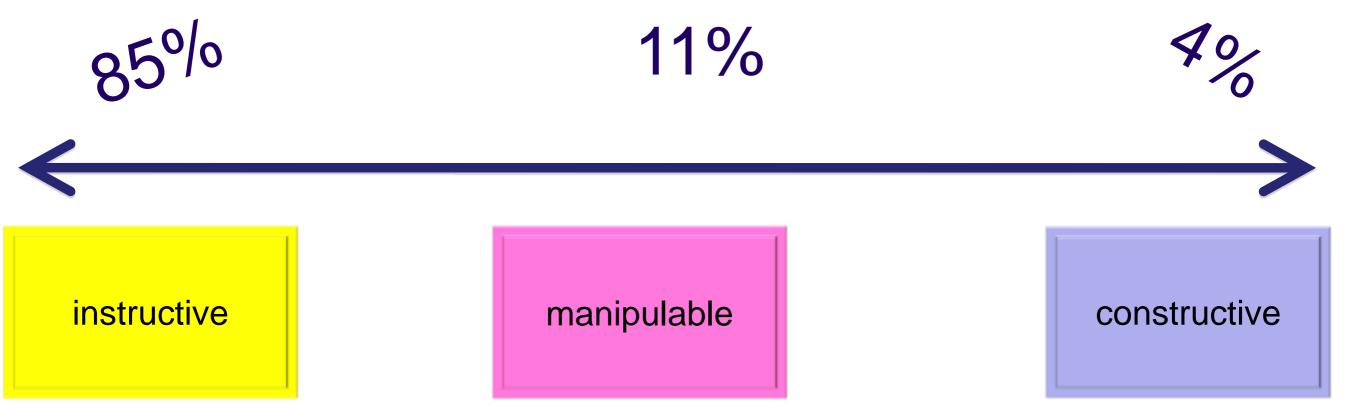




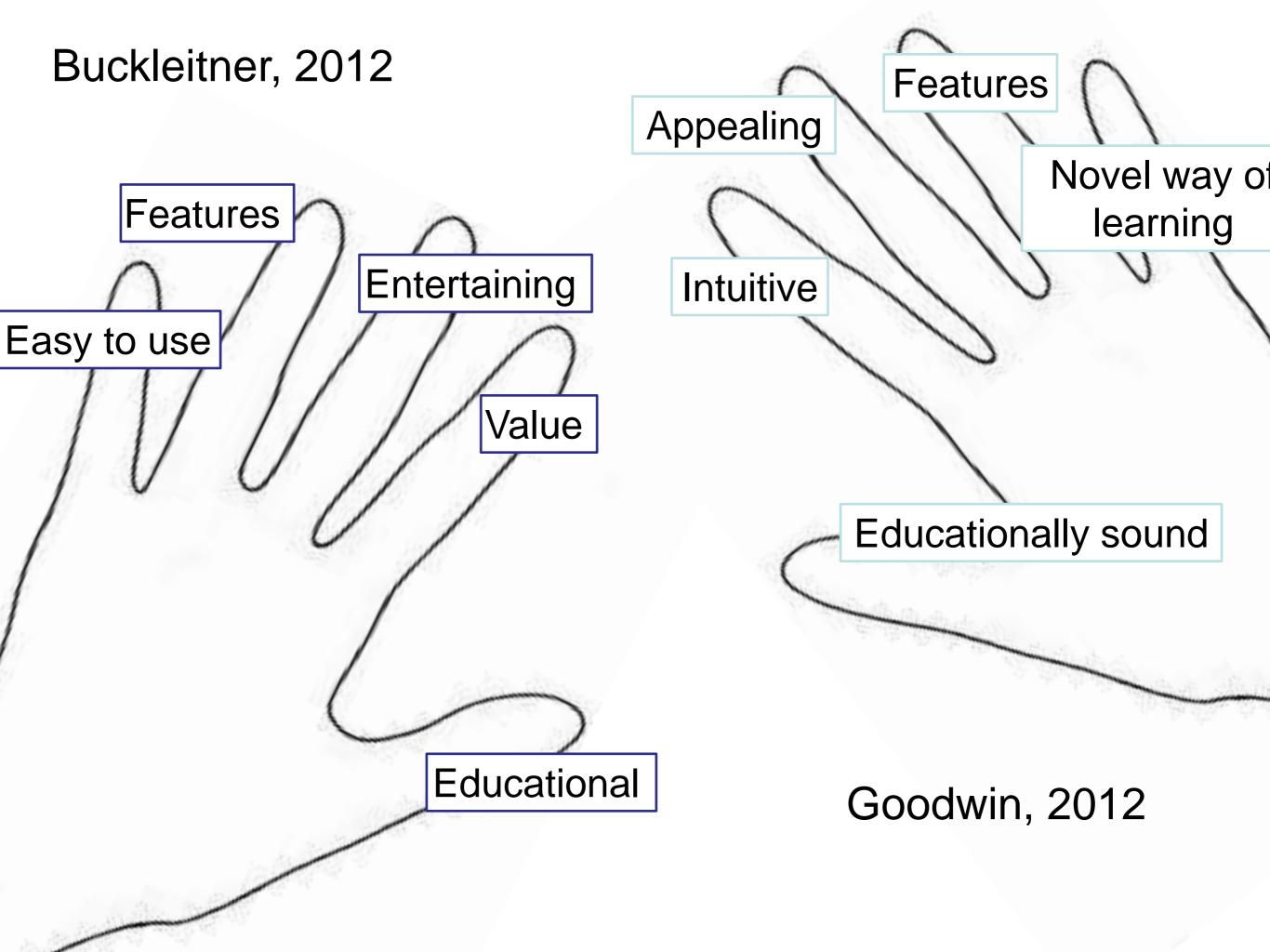


#### http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEU0EmiZcAk

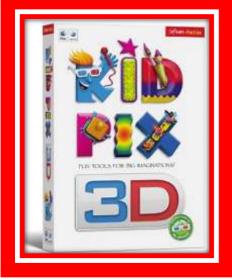
#### Analysis by pedagogic design (Goodwin & Highfield, 2012)



## Evaluating quality?



Choose wisely then match to your children and your pedagogic goal...



Kidpix Deluxe 3D



Explain Everything



**Puppet Pals** 



**Drawing Pad** 



http://artpad.art.com/art pad/painter/

audioboo



doodlecast



**My Story** 

# Constructive: create and communicate



Soup Toys (PC)



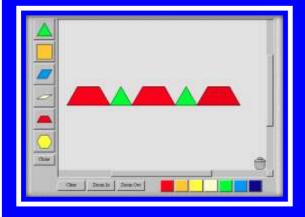
Friends of ten



ABC ArtMaker



**Toca Tea Party** 



National Library of Virtual Manipulatives (pattern blocks)





Make a face (ABC

**Playschool**)

Photo Peach (or Photostory)





**Bee-bot** 



**Alphabet Soup** 



**Monster Physics** 



Friends of ten



Hungry Guppy



http://www.storylineonline.ne t/



QuickMath



**StarWalk** 



Go Away Big Green Monster

## Instructional: obtaining content and information, practicing specific skills

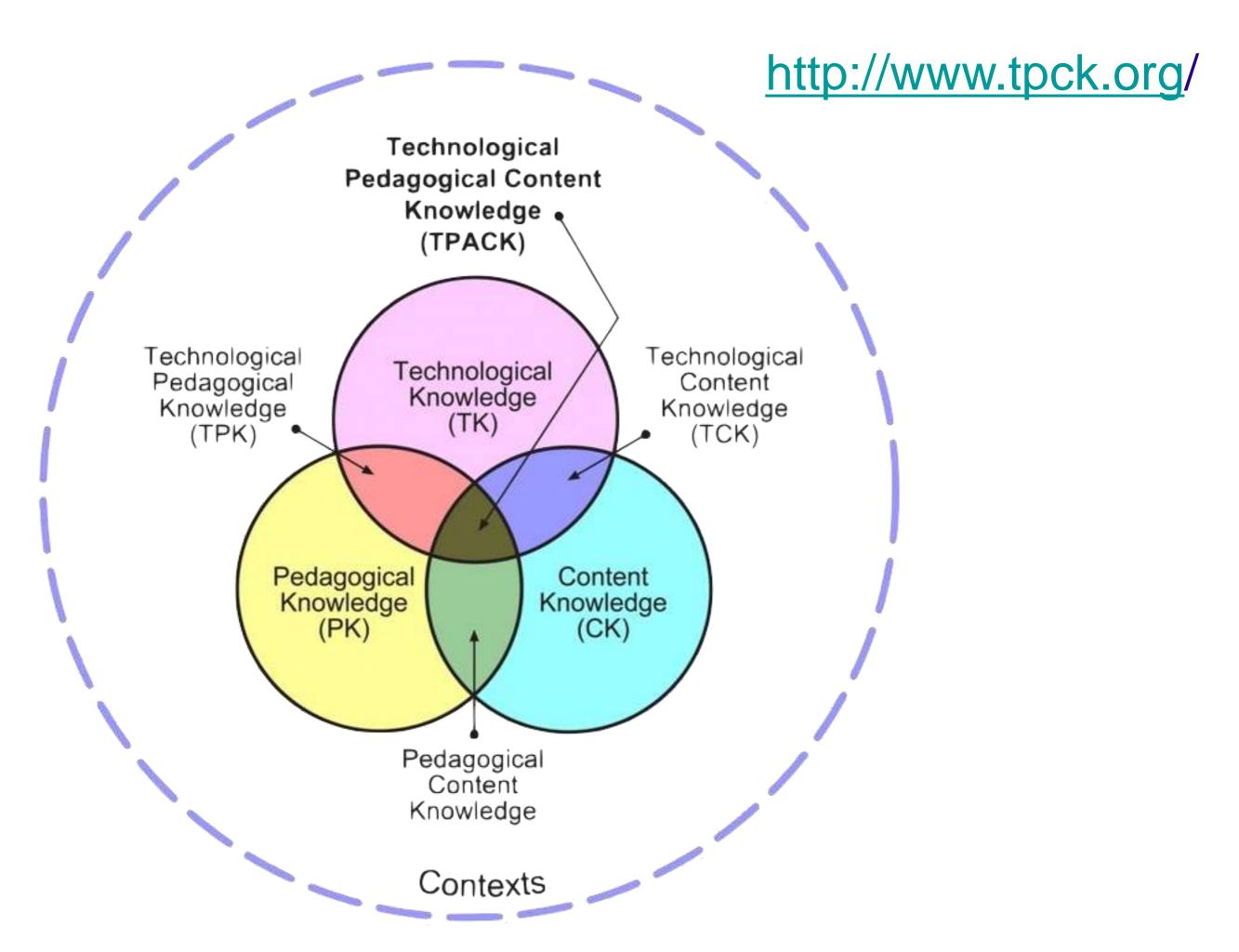


## How does it work?

 Plan (for children) then research (software or App selection)...tap into your PLN and PLANE

- Think through Content Context and Child (Lisa Guernsey) <a href="http://www.lisaguernsey.com/articles.htm">http://www.lisaguernsey.com/articles.htm</a>
- Address licensing issues

eg:<u>http://www.apple.com/au/mac/volume-licensing/</u>



Don't let the App guide learning. You are the pedagogista....

### Further information??

#### **BLOGS / Repositories and reviews:**

- http://childrenstech.com/
- http://www.schrockguide.net/bloomin-apps.html
- http://appsineducation.blogspot.com.au
- http://www.teachingappz.co.uk/
- <u>http://appitic.com/</u>
- http://childrensappreview.blogspot.com.au/

#### Key research:

- http://www.joanganzcooneycenter.org/Reports-34.html
- http://motionmathgames.com/press/
- http://www.commonsensemedia.org/learning-ratings

Kate Highfield, Institute of Early Childhood, Faculty of Human Sciences, Macquarie University

@kateytwit

kate.highfield@mq.edu.au