

How do you use technology to enhance your approach to inclusion?

We use technology to enhance our inclusion and our provision for children with all kinds of additional special needs. Because the iPad has got all sorts of built in accessibility features, so it's got screen readers, or you can change the hue or the the colour of the text, or you can control it with your voice. There's just a range of different features that are all built in that can help those specific needs. But what's really helpful is that because the device is available for everyone, If children have got kind of a low level need, they can still make use of those features. If you're dyslexic the fact you can press the dictation button and speak to your device and it writes it down; that could be really helpful for a severely dyslexic child, but actually someone who perhaps has some of those needs, it's still there available for them.

The other way we found using an iPad helps with inclusion is that because everyone's got a device and everyone's using it for learning all the time it's not that this child is excluded because they've got the technology and everyone else is doing something else. It's they're included because they're doing the same activities as everyone else because they're able to access it because it's using technology and because it's planned as part of the curriculum, it's not this kind of bolt on! And in that way, it allows these children to really thrive and succeed in perhaps ways they couldn't before, because if they've got a touchscreen, they know they can tap a button, record their voice. They can be way more independent than they could without technology.