

How have you developed computation thinking with the PicoH Robot?

I'd argue that concepts like Alexa and Siri, are very culturally understood as what I found when the children were talking about them. It wasn't really a matter of whether, you know, wherever they have an Alexa at home within seems relevant to that. It was this concept of just through pop culture, this idea of we have this thing, you talk to it, you ask it questions and it responds. And there's something so clear, and it's not tactile, but very clearly understood by the children of what you could break down the steps really easily for is what I liked about that.

They could see. Okay, as I ask this question to the children, if you ask a question to Alexa, that question goes in, something is going on this computer where it recognises what you say first, then find a way to make it understood in the way that a computer would understand those words through text and then translating that in a way which it will recognise and then breaking down what actually is happening there. And what that would actually look like was really interesting. And that gave a lot of opportunity to actually think in a more abstract sense and plan out what is actually going on here and sort of use flow charts and things like that to plan those ideas.

That's why I think it's particularly useful. And that's why I felt that it was an inclusive choice. To put it that way, I thought that every child would understand their background no matter what background or in terms of EAL English additional language being an issue there as well. Another thing I really enjoyed about the PicoH was it did have a language function on it, and that was really great. We had one child in the class who came to the country just a couple of months ago during the most recent lockdown with absolutely no English.

But someone who has been able to access this because of its Spanish setting that it has on there.

And so we can still see what is going on with this PicoH. He understands exactly and can relate it still to this idea of some kind of hardware that would use voice recognition. And you get a response out of a clear input and a clear output.