Childhood in the Digital Age

Learning

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Does education need re-thinking with the advances in digital tools?

Most classrooms today look much the same as when I was a child: there are textbooks, desks, paper and the teacher at the front. How will digital technologies change what the classroom of the future looks like?

Teachers often struggle to support the needs of children in classes that are growing in number. Innovators have demonstrated how technology can help address this problem by tailoring learning to individual children's interests and needs.

In this educational 'revolution,' technology can make learning more entertaining and engaging, allowing each child's progress to be closely monitored and offering regular rewards to maintain their attention.

Traditional skills taught at school, such as reading and writing, also need to be refreshed to prepare children for working and thinking digitally.

The new UK national curriculum includes computer coding lessons for children as young as 5 – it's hoped that this will prepare them to create their own digital content, rather than just consume it. iPads and digital apps are now offering powerful resources for teaching even basic numeracy and literacy skills.

As we examine these new teaching and learning innovations, we also explore the role of teachers and adults.

How will classroom teachers adapt to make room for digital technology in education? And what about my role as a parent - how will I support my son as technology advances beyond my own level of understanding?