

### INFUSING TECHNOLOGY FOR EARLY YEARS LITERACY SUPPORT: USING THE LEARNING TOOLKIT TO SUPPORT LEARNING IN THE PYP AND BEYOND

### GIOKO, A. & MARSH, J.









# **Guiding Questions**

• What is the LTK?



- Why and how we have used ABRA to good effect in local schools?
- Why and how we are trialling LTK in the Academy and our plans for further role out?
- How E-Pearl links to ABRA, and how we are using it to support MYP Design, PP and DP portfolios?











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### ABRACADABRA

A Balanced Reading Approach for Children All Designed to Achieve Best Results for All

**Questionable Assumptions:** 

Reading and writing are essential skills for children to achieve success

A Child should therefore be able to read by grade three

Early intervention is important in a systematic and explicit instruction of literacy skills



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### ABRA....

- is a free interactive web based literacy resource
- has a flat, fun and friendly interface
- targets both comprehension and skill acquisition
- has been shown to have significant beneficial effects







# ABRA consists of 5 modules

- Instructional
- Professional development
- Assessment
- Communication
- Parents



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- Non linear → Situated
   within 17 digital stories
- Engages learner interest through cartoons
- Targets a range of abilities in four domains
  - Alphabetics,
  - Fluency,
  - Comprehension
  - Writing

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### **Alphabetics**

### **Foundation**

- alphabets
- letter sound correspondence
- auditory discrimination
- syllable counting

### Engagement promotes

- reading fluently
- few mistakes
- good pace and cadence.
- correct expression







### Reading and writing,

- Spelling activities,
- Sentence construction,
- Punctuation marks,
- Capitalization,
- Paragraphing,









# Comprehension

Students begin with putting the text together or recalling the elements of the story



# E-Pearl

Goal setting

### <u>Activity</u>

- Planning
- Doing
- Reflection

### **Sharing**

- Feedback
- Presentation
- Feedback



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Continuous Professional Learning

- Activities
- Videos
- Tracking Students
- Communities of

practice

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### **Parent's Module**

Provides tips on how literacy may be supported and further developed through home use.

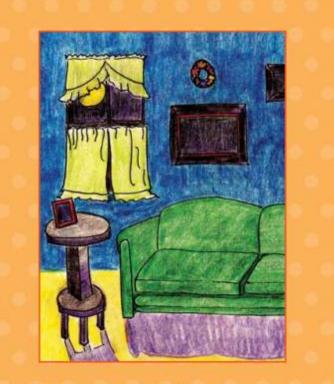




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Whiskers jumped up to explore. Pale yellow light made purple shadows on the floor. The house was quiet. He ran down a long, lighted hallway. This house was fine for a hungry mouse. This was a house for a mouse.

With his pink nose to the carpet, Whiskers smelled something wonderful. He squeezed under a dark door at the end of the long hall.









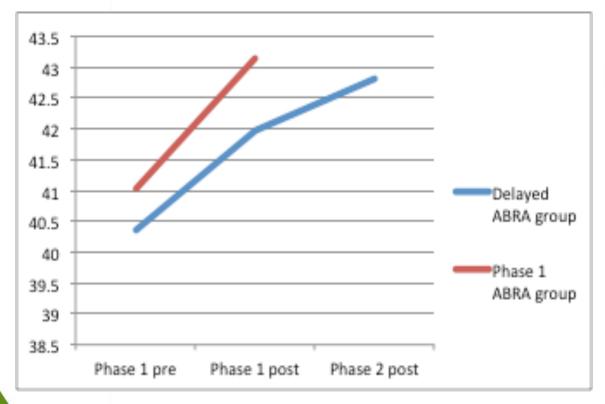
### **Collaborative Planning**







# The Results..... Vocabulary

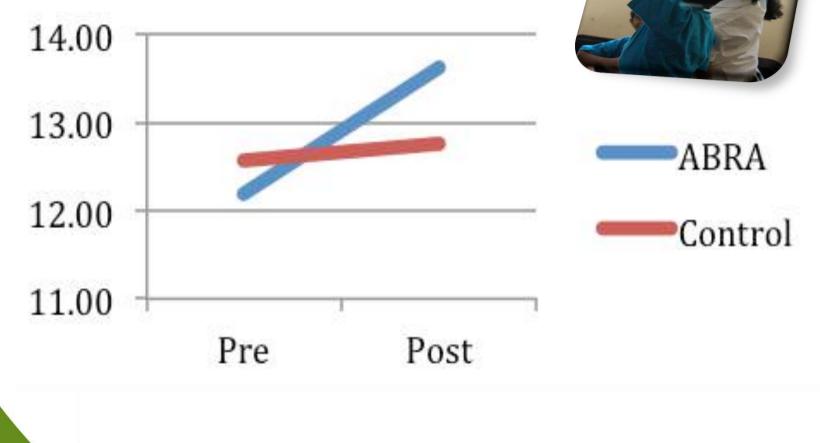








# The Results..... Listening

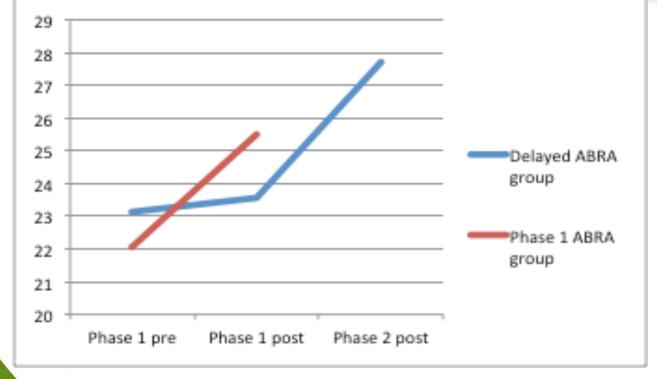






## The Results..... Comprehension



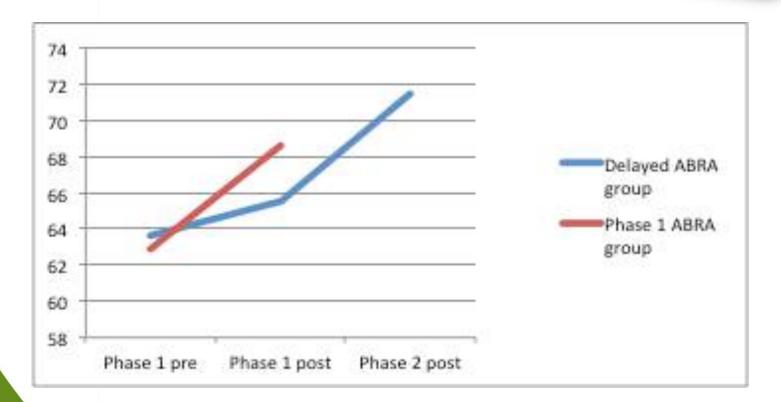






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# The Results..... Composite









# Core exams results for ABRA and control classes

Core subject exams	ABRA Means <sup>1</sup> (N= 168)	Control Means <sup>1</sup> (N=173)	Effect Size <sup>2</sup>
English	80.32 (80.39)	76.73 (76.65)	0.29
Standard Deviation/Error	16.37 (0.99)	20.71 (0.98)	
Mathematics	68.10(68.15)	65.82 (65.74)	0.15
Standard Deviation/Error	19.57 (1.29)	21.16 (1.27)	
Science	77.68 (77.74)	74.71 (74.65)	0.17
Standard Deviation/Error	19.09 (1.37)	21.74 (1.35)	
Social Studies	72.91 (72.99)	71.06 (71.01)	0.10
Standard Deviation/Error	22.67 (1.52)	22.12 (1.49)	





### Successes

- Teachers comfort levels of using technology
- Attitude shift
- Greater focus on Alphabetics, Fluency, Comprehension and Writing
- Innovative use of iBook
- Students ICT skills
  - Cultural awareness
  - Parental involvement







Infusing LTK into the PYP



- All the PYP teachers trained
- Year 1 and 2 allocated slot in the computer lab dedicated for Learning Toolkit use
- Each class provided with an ibook loaded with the software for
  - whole class instruction,
  - small group
  - individual use
  - planning.





ABRA @PYP



**Inquiry** – the 'secret room' triggers language curiosity **Teaching and learning** – Across all essential components **Making language connections** – Across units of inquiry. Sharing of lessons and materials – adaptable sample lesson plans and assessment tools and tasks. **Learner profile and attitudes** – targeted stories **Multiple intelligence** – multi-sensory interaction. **International-minded** – Mix of culture references **Transdisciplinary skills** - enhanced through cooperative learning and topical Stories.





# **PYP Themes – making connections**

Who we are - different characters



How we express ourselves – different forms of expression – appreciating diversity

How the world works – New ways of learning

**How we organize ourselves** – Story characters and students working together – each doing different job

Sharing the planet – Mixed cultureal representation

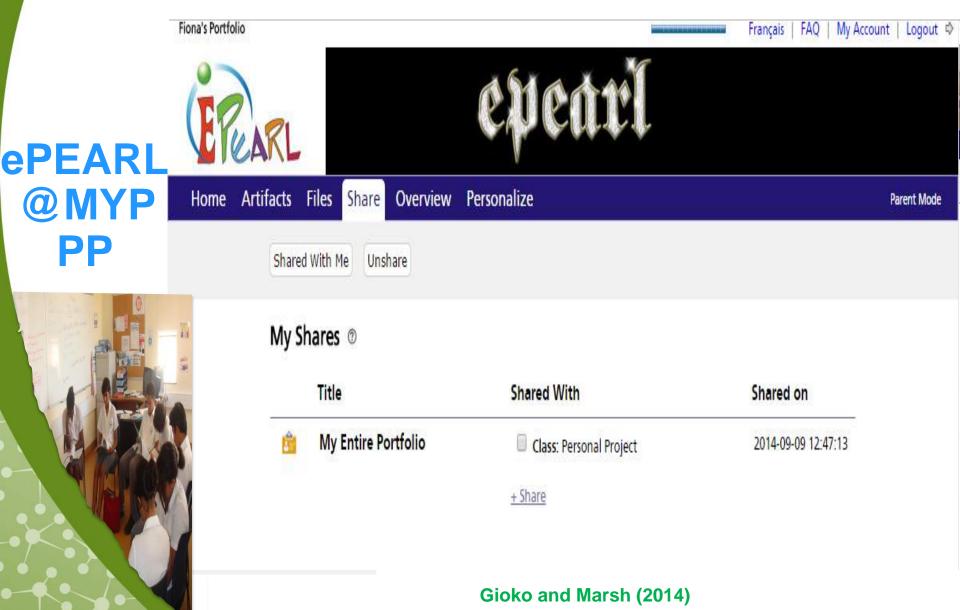




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	Tags	How hard I worked is related to how well I did.	always X
	Increased awareness of strengths and	I was interested in what I was doing.	always 🗶
	areas of growth	I checked how well I was doing against the plan I made.	always X





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# **Contacts**

Online access https://abralite.com

LTK Team @ Concordia University, Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance Dr. Philip Abrami (<u>abrami@education.concordia.ca</u>) Ms. Anne Wade (<u>wada@education.concordia.ca</u>)

LTK Team @ Aga Khan Academies Mr. Gioko Maina (gioko@akam.ac.ke) Mr. Jonathon Marsh (jonathon.marsh@akdn.org)

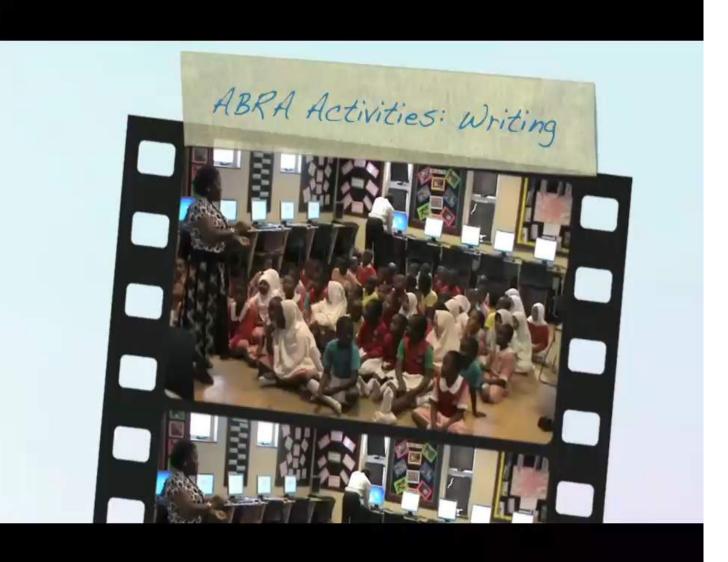






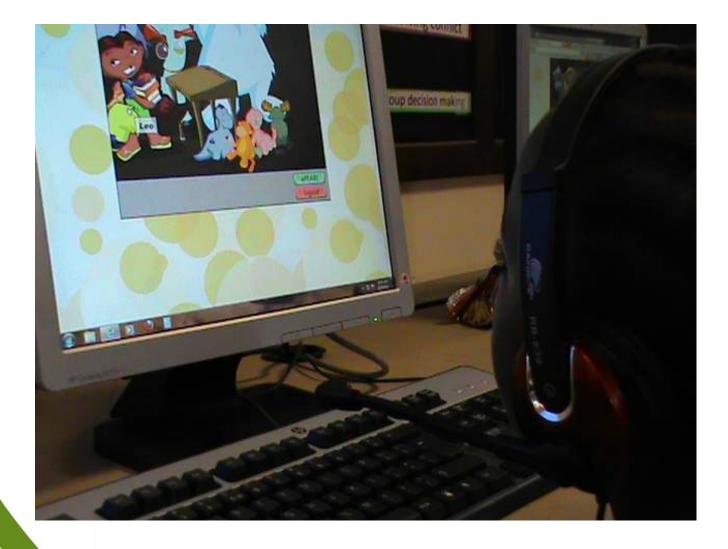
















GRADE scales	ABRA boys (N=73)	Control boys (N=68)	Mean difference	F value and significance
Word Reading (WR)	1.67	2.10	-0.43	0.62
Standard Deviation	3.26	3.18	Marine Marine	
Word Meaning (WM)	0.75	0.13	0.62	0.57
Standard Deviation	4.98	4.72	Suc collater,	RI CONTRACTOR
Vocabulary Composite (WR+WM)	2.42	2.23	0.19	0.03
Standard Deviation	6.46	6.38		Lat the top of
Sentence comprehension (SC)	0.60	-0.63	1.23	4.78*
Standard Deviation	3.54	3.13		
Passage comprehension (PC)	2.53	-0.38	2.91	17.99***
Standard Deviation	4.23	3.90		
Reading Comprehension Composite (SC+PC)	3.13	-1.06	4.19	17.40***
Standard Deviation	6.75	4.98		
Total (VC+RC)	5.56	1.22	4.34	6.78**
Standard Deviation	10.44	9.26		Contraction of the second
Listening	1.55	0.04	1.51	9.34***
Standard Deviation	2.83	3.01		

\*\*\* p< 0.00, \*\*p<0.01, \* p< 0.05 Gioko and Marsh (2014)



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	GRADE scales	ABRA girls (N=107)	Control Girls (N=106)	Mean difference	F value and significance
	Word Reading (WR)	1.15	1.47	-0.32	0.49
	Standard Deviation	3.03	3.58		
	Word Meaning (WM)	0.69	0.64	0.05	0.01
	Standard Deviation	4.74	3.45		
	Vocabulary Composite (WR+WM)	1.85	2.11	-0.26	0.11
	Standard Deviation	6.02	5.50		
	Sentence comprehension (SC)	0.36	-0.00	0.36	0.34
	Standard Deviation	4.40	4.79		
2	Passage comprehension (PC)	1.85	0.95	0.9	1.86
l	Standard Deviation	4.53	5.11		
	Reading Comprehension Composite (SC+PC)	2.22	0.97	1.25	1.42
1	Standard Deviation	7.11	8.18		
	Total (VC+RC)	4.07	3.08	0.99	0.52
	Standard Deviation	9.69	10.26		
	Listening	1.95	0.21	1.74	20.06***
	Standard Deviation	2.55	3.06		
100					





# Reading gains for low and high readers at the pre-test in ABRA and control classes

