Teams Junior

About Me

I am a primary school teacher in South East London, I am in my fourth year of teaching and specialised in the Early Years. I am also the schools ICT Co-Ordinator. I am dyslexic and so know the struggle that small children can face in school but I also know how technology can support them. Here are just some thoughts on Teams for young learners.

Sign Up/Login

Our younger learners would find the current process of signing up and logging in a difficult process with many steps. We have found that the easiest way for young children is something like a QR code or a username/password. Combined with the ability for staff to create a printout of logins. Example – 'Mathletics'

EYFS Tracking/Journals

In the UK EYFS staff use 'Development Matters' to track the progress of our youngest learners. Often recording their progress in a learning journal through observations (written, photo or video). These observations are matched against statements from 'Development Matters' to ensure that the children meet their early learning goals. Being able to make these observations for children in the EYFS and note what statements have been achieved would be hugely helpful for primary schools and allow for a whole school approach using teams. Example – 'Evidence Me'

Complete Assignments within Teams

As far as I have checked when children receive an assignment in Teams, depending on the format of the assignment, it opens in another programme I.e. it might open in Microsoft Word. Which is of course useful if you want the child to create a presentation or the like. However in the younger years it would be helpful if they could draw on a PDF within Teams or Mark up a photo.

Simplified User Interface for Microsoft Suite.

For young children simple and user friendly is best. A version of Teams or even Microsoft suite apps such as Word or PowerPoint with a trimmed down functionality maybe just the ability to type, draw, add pictures/videos and shapes. With the immersive reader tool which would be amazing for the little ones.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I am aware that there are reasons for the way Teams has been set up such as security and I don't know if anything can be done about that. However, Teams has such potential for our youngest learners and if a junior version could be developed, I believe it would be very popular and useful in school across the UK.