Buffett Early Childhood Institute
at the University of Nebraska

Digital Storytelling

Start early. Start well.
Lead panelist

Dr. Chip Donohue

Founding director of the Technology in Early Childhood (TEC) Center at Erikson Institute and senior fellow at the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media
Panelists

Laura Marr
Preschool teacher at Liberty Elementary School

Alex Morgan
Community outreach specialist at Boulder Journey School

Greg Morgan
Mentor teacher at Boulder Journey School
Today’s key concepts

1. Digital storytelling matters for learning
2. Children can show you what they know
3. Tools for digital storytelling are at hand
4. Why storytelling matters to children
It has been said that next to hunger and thirst, our most basic human need is for storytelling. Khalil Gibran
Children can show you what they know

- Photos, videos, audio
- Demonstrate learning
- Share
- Document experiences
- Tell a story
- Reflect
- Save
- Revisit

“We were me at the beach. The beach is one of my favorite things. I love the feeling of the sand on my feet. One of my favorite things to do at the beach is search for see glass. The glass comes from the sea. But don’t worry the glass is very dull from sitting in ocean over the years. So I won’t get cut.”

Lois - age 8

“We are storytelling creatures, and as children we acquire language to tell those stories that we have inside of us. Jerome Bruner
Tools for digital storytelling are at hand

- Laptop or desktop
- Tablet
- Smartphone
- Digital camera
- Digital audio recorder
- Microphone
- Headphones

A child’s story + affordances of devices = digital storytelling
Advantages of digital tools

• Child-centered

• Child in control of the technology and story

• Already familiar with digital devices

• Can be used alone or together

• Child learns about storytelling and technology
Why storytelling matters to children

• I can tell my story
• I can document what I did
• I can share what I’m interested in learning about
• I can show you what I know, what I think, and how I learn
• I can be listened to and heard
• I can turn objects, artwork, and things I build or find into digital artifacts
• I can save my story, revisit my experiences, and share my learning
• I can be an author and media creator