**[Amanda Sparks]:** I just wondered what some final key messages would be as we wrap up, for educators to consider when they're supporting children in their understanding around digital technology. I know you are a co-member or co-designer of the Excellence for the Digital Child, which is a website that you've created. And I did read one of your blog posts and it talked about this beach analogy. So hopefully, if we’ve got time, you can maybe touch on that because I thought it was really good way of explaining the current situation that we have.

**[Dr Suzy Edwards]:** So my first point would be just be really gentle on yourself and start somewhere that you are comfortable with. And if that's as simple as starting to do more role modelling with blocks and calling on phones and things like that, that's where you start. So the idea here anyway, my most important message is just be gentle with yourselves. You want to be able to enjoy your journey into using digital tech and if you're pressuring yourself, you won't. So start where you're comfy. I'm a big believer in being comfy to start with.

So there is this notion, so we've got all the gaming devices, tablets, or whatever, that all this technology exists. And our job as adults is to protect children from the tech. But that can come from a technological determinist perspective, that the tech's bad therefore we have to protect. It's not possible anymore. The world is *so* digital. The children are coming to you then, even their mornings before they arrive here for learning are incredibly digital. So there's this shift to saying, what we actually have to do is acknowledge that the child is *in* that digital world. They are part of the network. We are literally part of the internet. Every time we use internet, we're part of the internet. We are within it.

So there's a shift to saying what we need to do instead of thinking about ‘protect from’ is that we need to ‘educate, care and enable and protect from within’. Yeah? So we're thinking about educating children about the world that they're in so they're safe with technologies.

Here's a little statistic for you. Not only is it the earth, but there are 8,261 satellites that orbit our earth in space and they're pinging messages and data as we speak, like we might be, our very interaction right now may be using a satellite.

So, not only is it within the earth, it's also around our earth, so we're not going to escape it. Your children can't escape it, they're actually in it. So the notion of the beach is when children go to the beach, yes, there are things that can happen. They might get dumped by a wave, they might get sun burnt, creatures might hurt them, but we enact safeguards. So we teach children about sunscreen, we put tops on, we use hats, we swim between the flags, we teach children to be aware of creatures. So the notion of technology of the beach is the same thing. They're within the beach. So what we need to do is make sure that we're going with and teaching and enabling the safeguard.

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