



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute  
2019 Volume I: Digital Lives

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## **Play-based Poetry: An Exploration of Creativity and Digital Media**

Guide for Curriculum Unit 19.01.01  
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The aim of this three week long exploratory unit is for students to stop focusing on the digital world that they know so well and begin to focus on themselves and their own feelings. This unit focuses on the power of choice and ownership for young children in what is typically a very structured school day. They will learn how to express themselves through different styles of poetry. These different poems will be explored online and then discussed. My students will then get the opportunity to create poems themselves. They will be given the option to work concretely or digitally on their poems; even given the option to make a hard copy and a digital copy of the same poem. Finally, at the end of the unit the students will be able to present their work as a reflection of their authentic selves and not a “persona” they are trying to create. They will share this work to a specific audience rather than posting for anyone to see to reiterate the importance of privacy and safety in a digital world.

(Developed for Reading, Writing, and Health, grade 1)

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