



Family
Online Safety
Institute

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

Panel Summary: Media Literacy: Preparing our Children for Tomorrow

Moderator: Lisa Felton, Vodafone

Panelists: An-Me Chung, Mozilla Foundation; Erin McNeill, Media Literacy Now; Erin Reilly, University of Southern California, Annenberg Innovation Lab; Jane Tallim, Media Smarts

The Media Literacy: Preparing our Children for Tomorrow panel focused on educational tools, critical thinking skills, engagement, and general digital education.

An-Me Chung focused on the Mozilla Foundation's initiatives to create a web literate world. She mentioned Mozilla's use of Badges on their website to increase engagement with media literacy and build on interests. She also mentioned Mozilla's web literacy map and its effectiveness in media literacy.

Erin McNeil with Media Literacy Now focused on the policy side of media literacy. She discussed the legislation happening in the United States around Media Literacy, and how there needs to be a guided experience in media for the "parents of tomorrow" who are the school children of today. She discussed how teaching students media skills keeps democracy strong by keeping them engaged and participating.

Jane Tallim of Media Smarts emphasized the need for critical thinking skills in order to interact with media. She also discussed the home and school connection, and how parents are the primary teachers for children. She also mentioned how parents are the hardest to reach, and how school systems need to work with children to bring media assignments home to work on with other family members.

Erin Reilly of the USC Annenberg Innovation Lab discussed her current and past research in relation with new media and learning. She talked about the initiative PLAY, which encourages students to experiment with their surroundings and use transmedia storytelling. She also brought up participatory learning, which became a topic of conversation among all of the panelists, and how this allows for commenting/reflection, which builds on critical thinking skills.