



ELLA (Early Languages Learning Australia) Japanese

ELLA is a fun and easy digital language program for preschool children. The program is an Australian Government initiative aimed at encouraging more students to study language.

The Kindergarten children at Pingelly Primary School are participating in this program in 2017. The language the students are learning is Japanese. The children use iPads to access a suite of apps that introduce children to words, sentences and songs in Japanese. The characters are called Polyglots and they are engaging, fun and developmentally appropriate.

The Kindy children have been using the ELLA Japanese App on the iPad now for 2 weeks. I am impressed how they are using the roster and listening for the timer to manage their time on the iPad. We are currently using App 1: Polyglots in the Playroom and through the use of repetition, visual cues and opportunities to produce and mimic and play with Japanese sounds and words. Already I am hearing *konnichiwa* and *moshi moshi* in their play!

If you wish to know more about this program, download the Polyglots for Families (Japanese) app on your smartphone. The app details the progression of the scenes that are available to the children and also allows you and your family to play with a 'demo' of some of the games.

