Digital Badging

What is iQ: smartparent?

iQ: smartparent is a multimedia television and web series designed for parents that will empower them with new knowledge, tools, and abilities to successfully guide their children through the changing landscape of digital media and technology. It is a growing community of caregivers, national experts, educators, and parent bloggers who want to understand the opportunities and challenges of media as it relates to the development of their children. *iQ: smartparent* was created by WQED Multimedia in 2012.

About this Episode

Digital badging provides an opportunity for learners of all ages to acquire skills and credentials in a variety of settings both within and outside of the classroom. This episode of iQ: smartparent shares ways that digital badges are being used by parents, students, teachers, and in the workplace.

Discussion Questions

1.   How can children use digital badging to learn during out of school time?

2.   Has your child earned any digital badges? What was that experience like? If not, have they earned regular badges – possibly through scout troops – that they found useful?

3.   How can digital badging be used in the classroom? Do you think your child's teacher would be open to this approach? Why or why not? Would the students?

4.   How could digital badging be used in the workplace, or for job seekers?

5.   If your town is not part of the Cities of Learning movement, who could you contact to help get it started? Where could you go for help?

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About the Guests

An-Me Chung is Senior Director of Partnerships at Mozilla, a public charity best known as the makers of Firefox. Mozilla promotes openness, innovation, and opportunity online; and creates open standards that enable innovation, access, and opportunity for all. Most recently, Chung was the associate director of education at the MacArthur Foundation where she supported initiatives to improve student learning through the use of digital media. Prior to this, she led the education grantmaking at the Mott Foundation and partnered with the U.S. Department of Education to build the afterschool field. This partnership won the Public Excellence Award and was a semi-finalist for the Kennedy School of Government "Innovations in American Government" award. Chung has served on a number of boards including Grantmakers for Education and Community Foundation of Greater Flint. Chung has a Ph.D. from Yale University and a B.S. from Washington University in St. Louis.

Cathy Lewis Long is the founding executive director of The Sprout Fund, Pittsburgh's leading non-profit supporting innovative ideas, catalyzing community change, and making our region a better place to live, work, play, and raise a family. Under Cathy's leadership, Sprout has invested more than $4 million in more than 500 early-stage ideas in areas as varied as learning innovation, arts and culture, transportation, biodiversity, and civic engagement.

Since 2011, Sprout has stewarded an interdisciplinary network of leading civic, commercial, cultural, and academic organizations working to create remarkable learning experiences for children and youth—forging a 21st century ecosystem for learning, innovation, and creativity in Pittsburgh and the surrounding communities of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Khalif Ali is a native of Pittsburgh with a background in community organizing, leadership development and team-building. He has a Master's in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh. Khalif recently joined the staff at The Sprout Fund as the Program Manager of the Badges for Learning project. He has a passion for initiatives and movements that improve the quality of life in distressed areas.

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Online Resources

Mozilla Open Badges
http://openbadges.org/

MacArthur Foundation
http://www.macfound.org/programs/digital-badges/

MakeWav.es
www.makewav.es/

Cities of Learning
www.lrng.org/cities

7 Things You Should Know About Badges
http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/eli7085.pdf

Education Week
www.edweek.org/search.html?qs=digital+badges

Digital Badges for Instruction
www.ala.org/acrl/publications/keeping_up_with/digital_badges

Digital Badges for Professional Development
www.educause.edu/ero/article/digital-badges-professional-development

Video: What is a Badge?
www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDmfE0noOJ8

The Great Digital Badges Debate
https://www.commonsense.org/education/blog/the-great-digital-badges-debate

How Open Badges Could Change Teaching and Assessment
www.commonsense.org/education/blog/how-open-badges-could-change-teaching-and-assessment

Digital badges help Pittsburgh employers build workforce
www.nextpittsburgh.com/business-tech-news/digital-badges-help-pittsburgh-employers-build-workforce/

Benefits to Using Badges in the Classroom
www.hastac.org/blogs/kyphilosopher/2014/01/30/4-benefits-using-badges-classroom

Librarians Create Site for Teachers to Earn Badges for New Skills
www.thedigitalshift.com/2013/12/k-12/badge-teacher-librarian-laura-flemings-site-educators-earn-digital-badges-new-skills-trend-watch-december-2013/

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Show Me Your Badges
www.nytimes.com/2012/11/04/education/edlife/show-me-your-badge.html?pagewanted=all&_r=2&

In-depth Guide Books for Computer Science Students – Computer Science Online
www.computerscienceonline.org/cs-programs-before-college/

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