

The Big Picture: The Evolution of Investigative Learning

Our journey toward 21st century teaching and learning began in the summer of 2006 when the teachers of Ormondale School engaged IDEO, a local design and innovation firm, to help develop a vision for the future of teaching and learning at Ormondale. To meet the needs of 21st century learners, teachers needed to implement innovative teaching methods. The staff worked together to identify teaching paths that would help lead children to a successful future and created prototypes of curricula and tools that would develop important skills and mind sets. Collectively, Ormondale defined this new teaching philosophy as *Investigative Learning*.

Teachers piloted new methods, exploring ways to design curriculum and approach classroom learning in a new way. The investigations we developed through small experiences and complex projects brought us to a place where we, as a group, established a meaningful range of learning experiences that enacted this investigative learning philosophy. To achieve continuity and systematization throughout the school, IDEO returned to work intensively with teachers to create definitions and tools. As we shared our classroom experiences, we articulated the values of Investigative Learning. Our work culminated in the publication of [A Guide to Investigative Learning at Ormondale](#).

