Digital Cultural Probes provide rapid and continuous access to children's everyday lives.

Children are experts in their everyday lives. We cannot design future technology for children without involving the experts. In the NetWorking.Kids project, digital cultural probes were utilized to gain basic knowledge of children's practice and learning. We see cultural probes as a way of getting information about what is important in children's lives in a way that puts the children in control. Their choices alone govern when and what to photograph and send to us.

With digital cultural probes we have taken the idea of cultural probes and transferred it to a digital medium, in our case manifested in Nokia 7650 mobile phones with camera and Dictaphone functions. We encouraged the children to send us lots of pictures and audio-clips to put up on a restricted web-page for the class, which served two purposes: it created a self-organized forum where the children could share fun stuff and inspire each other, and it provided us with insight into what the children thought was fun, interesting or relevant to them at any given moment. In addition, the digital cultural probes could be saved and shared by children as well as researchers.

Approximately 150 photos and audio clips were received from the children during the 2 month trial period.