

Technology

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Fred Rogers Center (2012) recommend in their joint position statement on Technology and Interactive Media as Tools in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth through Age 8, that early childhood educators “Select, use, integrate, and evaluate technology and interactive media tools in intentional and developmentally appropriate ways, giving careful attention to the appropriateness and the quality of the content, the child’s experience, and the opportunities for co-engagement.”

https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/position-statements/ps_technology.pdf

When we model for children how we use the tools of technology in a mindful way, especially to explore places and find information that we can't access with the resources we have on hand, they can begin to make a distinction between those possibilities and screen time. Technology is not a substitute for hands-on, real-world experiences.

Teacher Ideas:

- Take photos of activities and have children dictate a caption for them. Invite them to take photos of their work with a digital camera.
- Use technology tools to connect with other children in the community or globally.
- Coordinate visits via Zoom with community helpers and family members.
- For children who attend speech therapy or have other speech development needs, incorporate learning games that help them pronounce different sounds.
- Introduce handheld digital microscopes and other science tools.
- Offer books on CD with headphones.
- Play music from phones for dance parties.
- Use short videos as virtual field trips.
- STEM teaching in early childhood is not about looking to technology to answer questions. Use technology as one tool along with hands-on experiences, children’s literature, experimentation, and using the local community as a resource.
- Share “Common Sense Media” with families. This resource has information about age-appropriate apps, games, and online content as well as articles and videos to help parents navigating digital citizenship.

