

The Power of Language: Tech Literacy



Tips for Supporting:

- Infants & Toddlers
- Preschool-Age Children
- School-Age Children

To support tech literacy development for Infants & Toddler, try these activities:

- Allow children to explore digital materials with the guidance of an adult to participate and mediate. Similar to reading time, use shared technology time as an opportunity to talk to the children, use new words, and model appropriate use.
- Avoid passive screen time. Although parents claim that baby videos calm a fussy child, there is little research to suggest that infants and toddlers learn from watching videos. If infants are distressed, they need the comfort of a caring adult, not an electronic toy.
- Use technology as an active and engaging tool when appropriate for infants and toddlers. This can look like accessing pictures of their families and friends, animals and objects in the environment, and a wide range of diverse images of people and things they might not otherwise see (e.g. Pictures of children from other countries).
- Incorporate assistive technologies as appropriate for children with special needs and/or developmental delays.

To support tech literacy development for preschool-age children, try these activities:

- Allow children to freely explore touch screens loaded with a wide variety of developmentally appropriate interactive media experiences that are well designed and enhance feelings of success.
- Provide opportunities for children to begin to explore and feel comfortable using “traditional” mouse and keyboard computers to use Websites or look up answers with a search engine.
- Capture photos of block buildings or artwork that children have created; videotape dramatic play to replay for children.
- Celebrate children’s accomplishments with digital media displayed on a digital projector or on a classroom Website.
- Incorporate assistive technologies as appropriate for children with special needs and/or developmental delays.

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- Record children's stories about their drawings or their play; make digital audio or video files to document their progress.
- Explore digital storytelling with children. Co-create digital books with photos of the children's play or work; attach digital audio files with the child as the narrator.

To support tech literacy development for school-age children, try these activities:

- Explore a wide range of quality interactive media experiences, on a variety of platforms. These include literacy software, games, and technologies that go beyond drill and practice and foster creativity.
- Include a range of assistive technology devices to expand access for children with special needs.
- Include language-translation software and keyboard adaptations for dual language learners.
- Provide geometry software that allows children to explore the concept of shape by stretching, bending, shrinking, or combining images.
- Use interactive digital games as a way to explore math, reading, social studies, and science concepts.
- Provide digital microscopes and other digital tools for investigation.
- Encourage children to become proficient in using digital tools such as cameras, scanners, recorders, and editing software.
- Use technology tools to connect with other children in their communities or globally using e-mail, blogs, or video conferencing.
- Record children's stories about their art projects, activities, and interactions; make digital audio or video files to document their progress.



More ideas and more can be found by accessing the New Mexico Early Learning System: www.nmels.org.