

WISDOM



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10 Tips For Using Technology and Interactive Media With Young Children

- 1. Remember that relationships matter most** — Using technology with young children begins with low tech, high-touch opportunities for interactions, shared experiences, discoveries, and joint-engagement with media.
- 2. Integrate technology use into social and emotional learning** — Technology should be used in ways that support positive social interactions, mindfulness, creativity, and a sense of initiative.
- 3. Use technology as a tool** — Technology is one more important tool you can put in children's little hands for exploring, learning, and creating; it is not more or less important than other tools children use to learn in the early years.
- 4. Trust your instincts** — Focus less on how many minutes a child engages with screen media and more on the quality of the content, the context for using media, and the level of engagement.
- 5. Empower children to use technology as a tool for 21st century learning** — Select technology that encourages inquiry, exploration, discovery, documentation, and demonstration of what they know.
- 6. Provide beneficial technology experiences** — Offer media experiences that are engaging and interactive; include positive interactions with others; give the child control; emphasize interactions, language use, and relationships; and invite co-viewing and joint engagement with media.
- 7. Make media use a language-rich experience** — Narrate your own use of technology and talk to children about what they are doing when they are using screen media; ask questions, make comments, and suggest what they can do after the screen is turned off.
- 8. Help children progress from just consuming media to creating it** — When paired with the curiosity and creativity of a child, simple tools like a digital camera can become powerful media creation tools.
- 9. Pay attention to your own technology use in front of children** — Children learn media habits and how and when to use technology by observing the important adults in their lives.
- 10. Be a media mentor** — Young children need to be safely guided in the digital age by trusted adult role models who are active and intentional media mentors.