Tech for the Early Years Conference

Connecting Research to Practice

October 17, 2013

Chicago, IL

Moderator

- Alexis Lauricella, alexislauricella@gmail.com

Technology and Early Literacy

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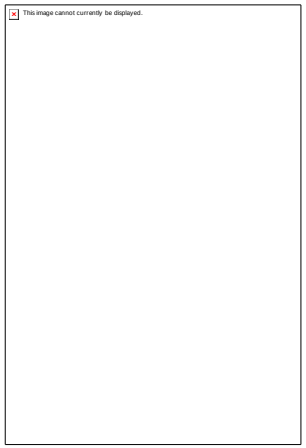

Children With Special Needs

Tamara Kaldor, MS, Developmental Therapist

Director, Chicago PLAY Project

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Facebook group: iPad Apps and Info for Special Kids

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Using Technology to Differentiate for Advanced Learners

- Ann Gadzikowski,
- Early Childhood Coordinator for the Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University
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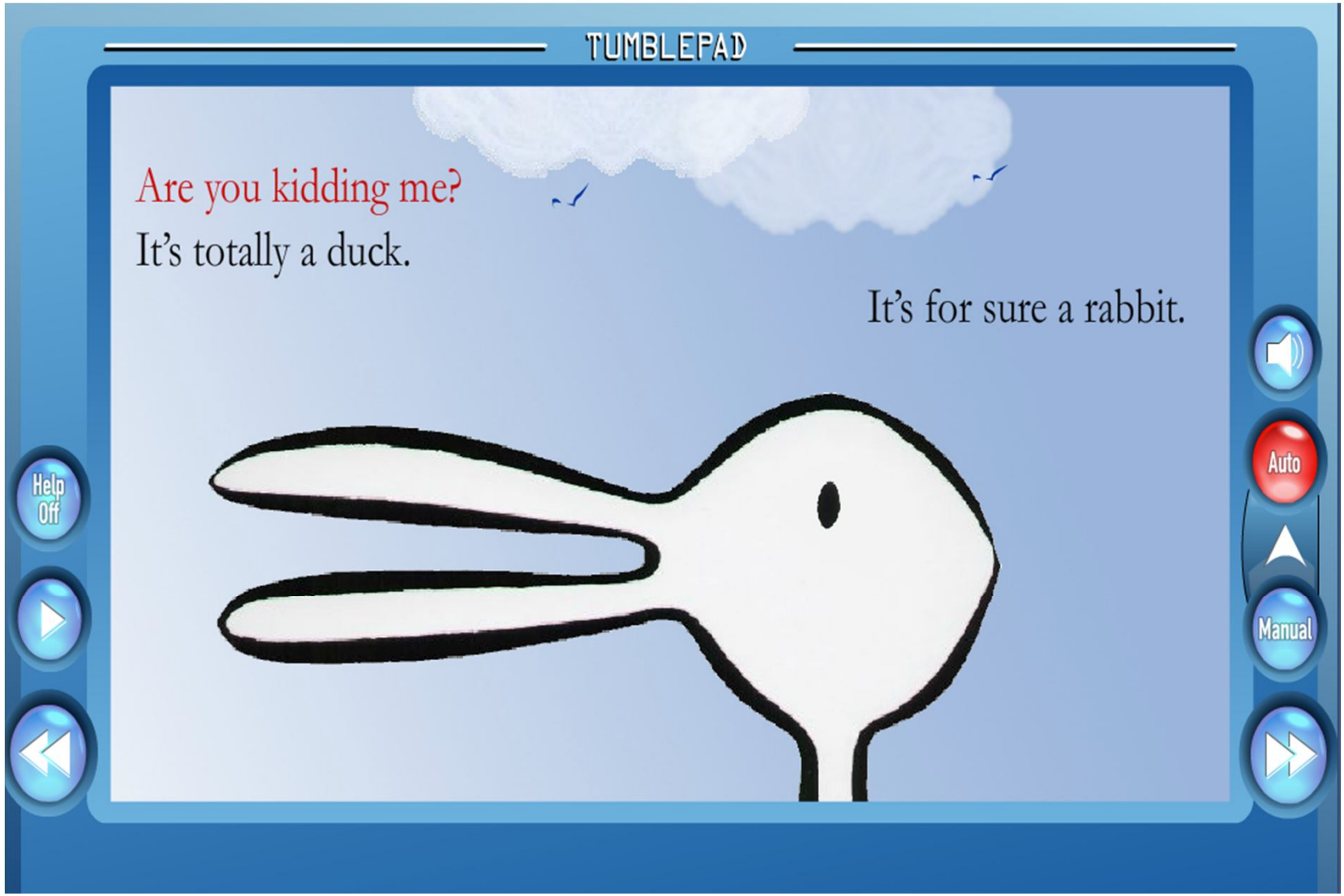
Technology and Early Literacy

Katie Paciga

Teaching Literacy Skills, Digitally

- Foundational Skills
  - Phonological Awareness
  - Alphabet
  - Letter-sound correspondences/Phonics
  - Word recognition
- Fluency
- Comprehension
- Vocabulary
- Writing

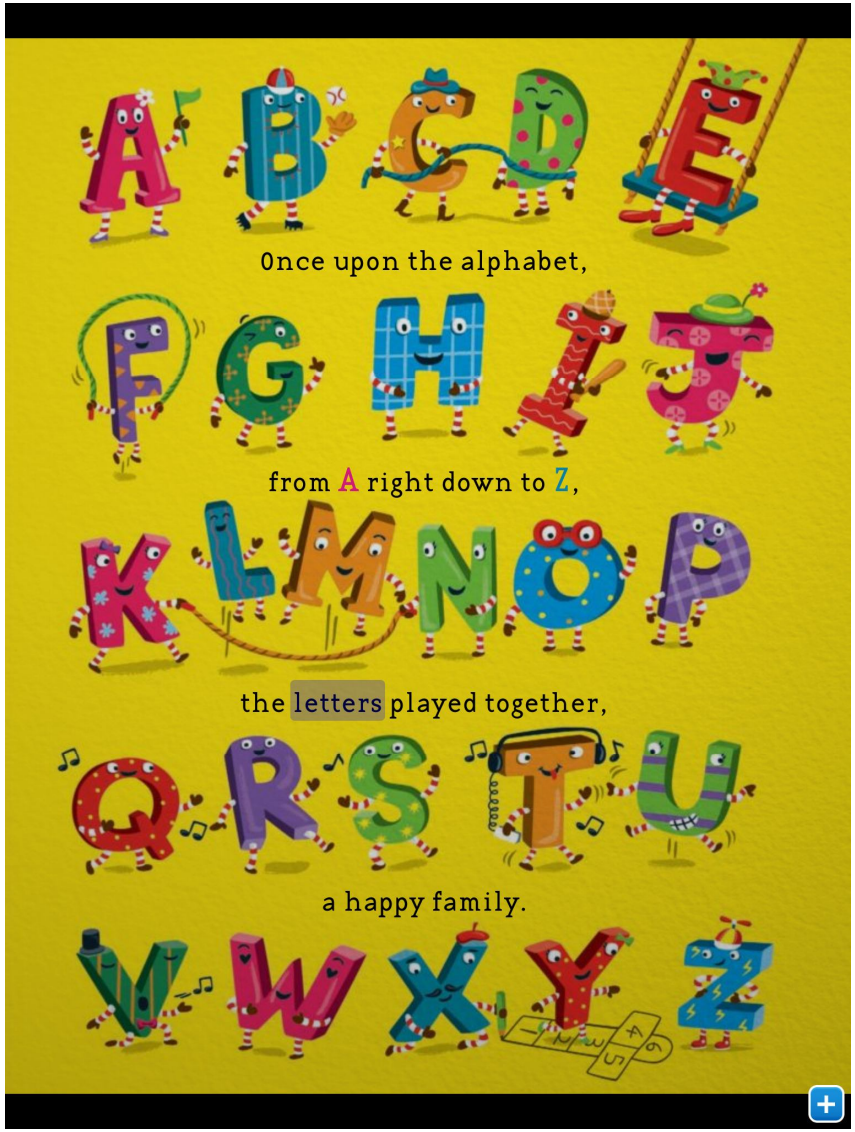
Tumblebooks



Example at Palatine Public Library

One More Story

Storia


Once upon the alphabet,
from A right down to Z,
the letters played together,
a happy family.

Starfall

Tenets of Shared Reading

- Demonstrate the PURPOSES for reading eBooks
- Scaffold for text navigation
  - Desktops/laptops require different kinds than tablets
  - Margins of error & child's level of frustration as related to engagement
- Use comprehension asides and vocabulary supports
- Seek out rich, thought-provoking content (if your purpose is to develop literary or content-area knowledge)

“Three Little Pigs”

Multiple Exposures/Experiences

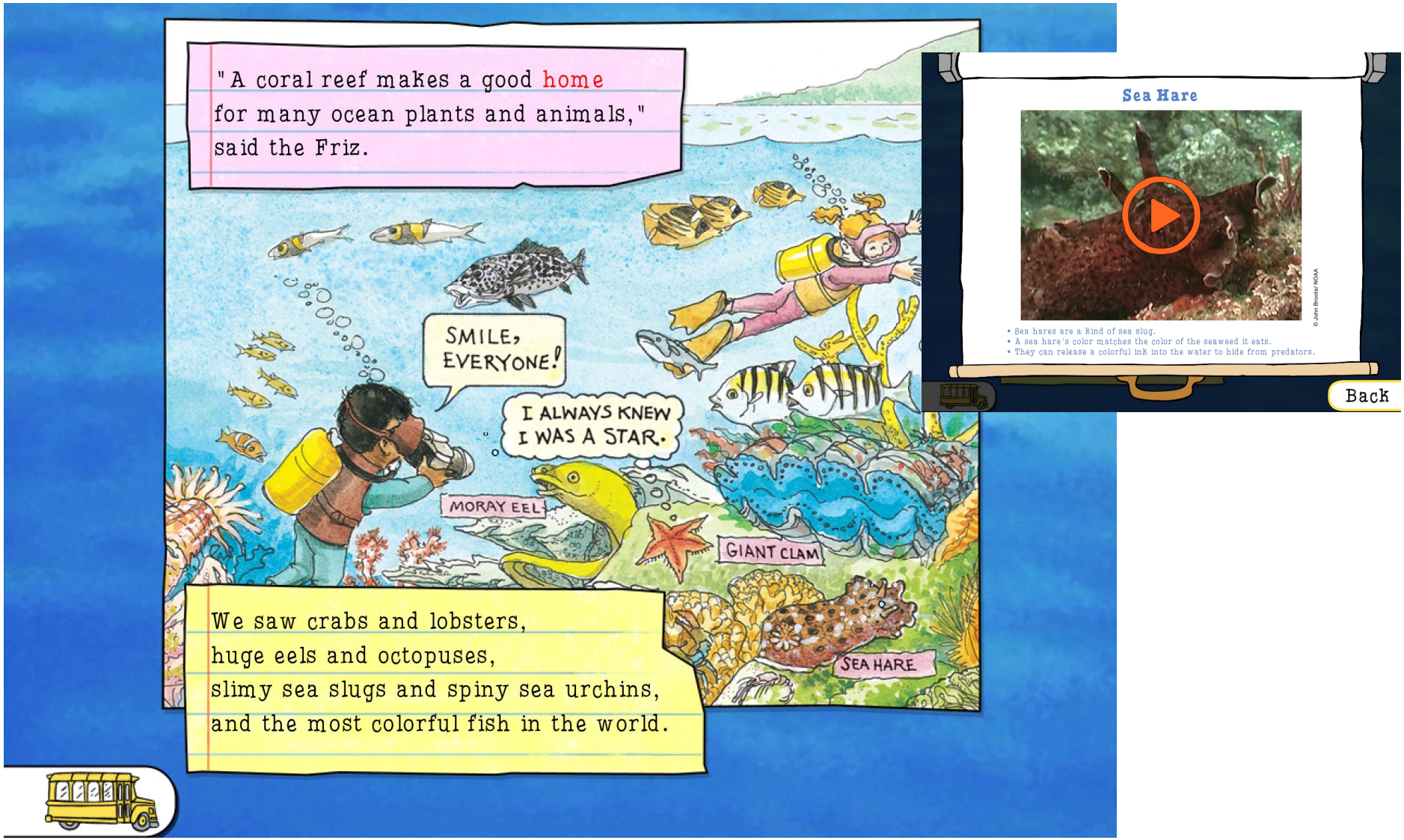
- Young children don't walk away from a singular story-listening experience with much comprehension
- Some abandon the listening experience when left unassisted – Too hard to navigate? Uninterested in content? Does not align with their conceptions of what we "do" with screens?
- eBooks that have games & hotspots encouraged more "playing" than reading in the 2nd, 3rd book reading experiences

“Hiku”

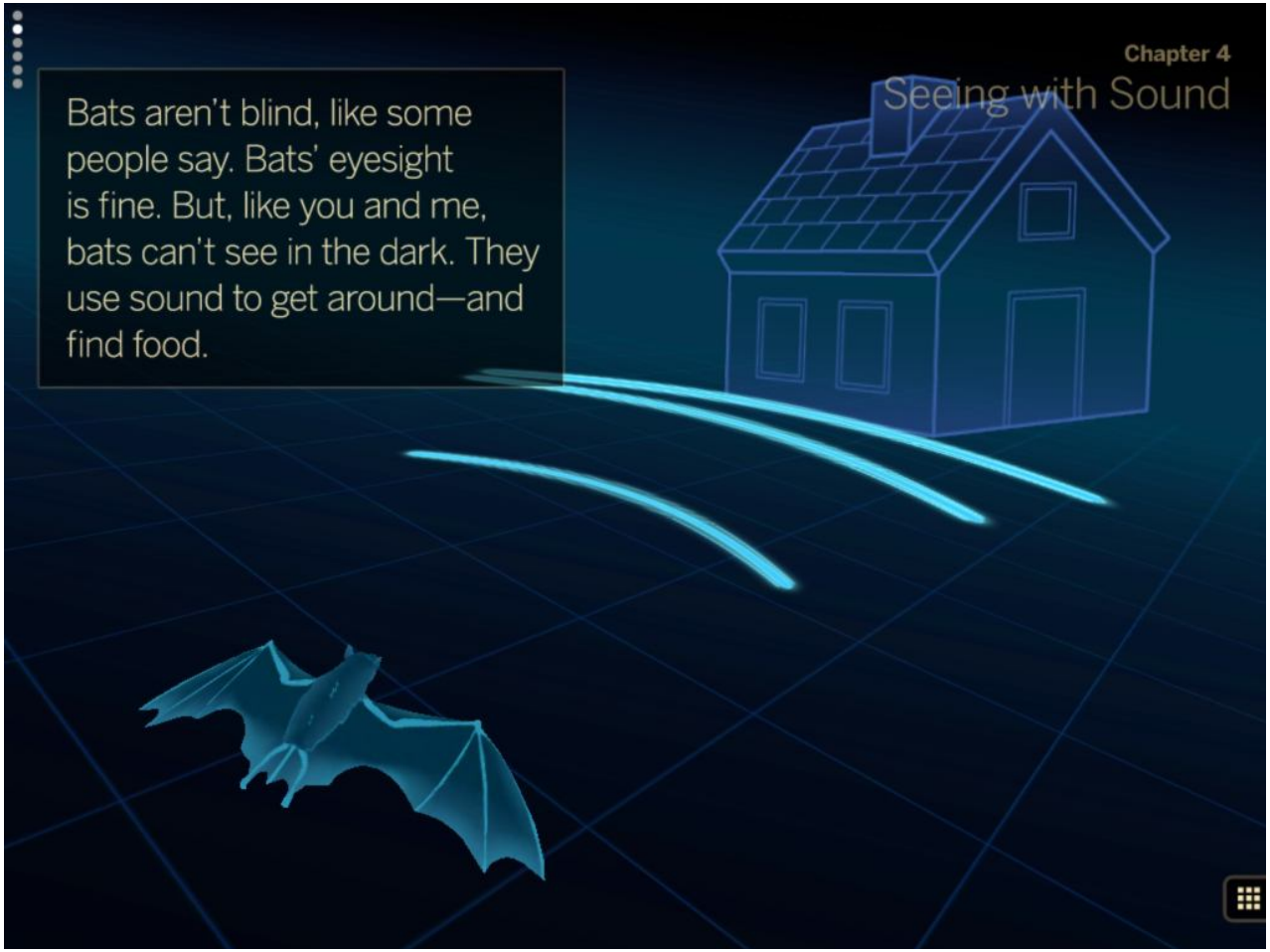
Start recording
Recording
Use my narration
Original audio

“Pat the Bunny”

Stand – alone app “MSB: Oceans”



“Bats! Furry Fliers of the Night”



Tips for Sharing eBooks

- You do the reading to better control the pace
- Talk though
  - Navigation
  - How the different features embedded into eBook impact your meaning-making process.
- Big screens function like big books
  - Document cameras
  - Apple TV
  - Dongle to connect iPad to overhead projector
  - When above doesn't work, share like you would a normal sized book or resort to smaller-group contexts
- Make eBooks as you learn about them

Children with Special Needs

Tamara Kaldor

The iPad, and now the android tablet, is the single most important advancement in the last century for people affected with developmental disabilities.

It is allowing children to **PLAY** who were never able to before

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Is there an app for?

- Meaningful conversation
- Inclusion in learning and social environments
- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Emotional Regulation
- Playdates: Creating real friendships
- Imaginative play

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How do you move from isolation towards relating and communicating?

- Providing educators, therapists and parents with the skills to use iPads/tablets as a necessary tool rather than a reward

- Turning the child into “the maker” role is creating a generation of problem-solvers

- Many terrific applications go beyond those designed for special education Ex: Pages and Keynote

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8 Favorite apps

- **Choiceworks** (visual schedules + emotional regulation w/feeling boards)
- **HD Timer** (best visual timer)
- **Kid in Story** (social story where you can insert a child)
- I use **Keynote** and **iBook** (create social stories quickly)
- **Toca Boca Tea Party and the other Toca apps** (great for working on following directions + pretend play
- **My Playhome** (pretend playhouse)

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Using Technology to Differentiate for Advanced Learners

Ann Gadzikowski

CTD Leapfrog Program

- PreK-Grade 3
- Eligibility based on developmental evaluation of verbal and nonverbal ability
- Not yet “gifted”
- Includes twice-exceptional learners

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Examples of Leapfrog Courses

- Pirates & Treasures
- Math for Spies
- Brain Surgery
- Rocket Science
- Zoo Vets
- Building Bridges
- Open Your Own Restaurant
- Whale Talk
- Blocks & Blueprints
- Kitchen Chemistry

Surprise!

- The Zone of Proximal Development may be much wider and deeper than you expect.

Big Idea: Differentiation

- Technology helps teachers differentiate to meet the individual needs of each learner.

Web Fluency for Teachers

- Teachers need immediate access to advanced content.
- Examples: Plumbing, birds, triangles

Critical Thinking Online: Evaluating Web Sites

- Who is the author?
- Who is the publisher?
- When was this written?
- What are the sources?

Tried & True Teacher Sources

- PBS STEM Education Resource Center
  http://www.pbs.org/teachers/stem/
- National Geographic
  http://www.nationalgeographic.com/
- Kahn Academy – Math
  www.khanacademy.org

Child-Centered Differentiation

Think about your most advanced learners when making tech decisions.

- Can the child control and accelerate the pace?
- Can the child control and advance the content?
- Are deeper levels of complexity available?

Technology as a Subject Area

- Animation:

www.scratch.mit.edu

- Robotics
- HTW:

  Engineering

Technology as a Gender Issue

- “Girl Power” technology
- More than just equal access – Encouragement & modeling

Managing Technology

- The challenge of multi-site programs
- Technology as a moving target
- Teachers need “Site-Specific Technology Guides”

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