

Erikson Institute

Technology in Early Childhood Center

Supporting Families Virtually during COVID-19 Outbreak

Presented by Jenna Herdzina
Technology in Early Childhood (TEC) Center



Webinar Logistics & Details

- For PreK-3rd Grade teachers during COVID-19 Outbreak
- 30-40 minutes of presentation

Handout:
bit.ly/tecfamilies

About Technology in Early Childhood (TEC) Center at Erikson Institute

Erikson Institute

Technology in Early Childhood Center



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Erikson Institute

Erikson Institute is a graduate school in child development, early education, and social work

Mission: Erikson Institute educates, inspires, and promotes leadership to serve the needs of children and families so that all can achieve optimal education, social, emotional, and physical well-being



Erikson Institute

Technology in Early Childhood Center

Research



Practice



Leadership



Connecting theory, policy and research to practice

TEC Center Resources and Opportunities

- TEC Center:
 - Professional Development
 - Educator Tips and Lesson plans
 - Research
- Erikson Institute
 - Summer Institutes
 - MSECE STEM Concentration Degree and Certificate programs



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Webinar Agenda

- Practical Considerations
- Supporting connection with families
- Supporting caregivers as teachers
- Supporting children's virtual learning

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Considerations

- Community & Program Factors
 - Full day vs part day
 - Curriculum goals, standards, expectations
 - School policies and expectations
- Access
 - Technology device
 - Internet
 - Data plans
- Family Life
 - Caregivers job status, responsibilities
 - Child and family stress
 - Family dynamics and demographics



A few things to think about regarding home life now

- Most caregivers are not trained educators or child development professionals, but they are the experts of their children
- Children are used to their school context being the place where they do the formal learning
- Homes have differ in space, technology, and learning environment

Connecting with Families

Tips for Connecting with Families

Relationships matter

- Ask how/when is best to communicate with them
- Consider individual family needs and offer options for communication
- Keep information readily available to families, but do not overwhelm them



Tips for Connecting with Families

Consistent & Clear

- Use one platform to share everything with caregivers
 - Seesaw, Class Dojo, Storypark, class website, email
- Be as predictable as possible
 - Type and timing of communication
 - Expectations for students
 - Expectations for parents

Tips for Connecting with Families

Communicating with You

- Be clear with families about best ways to communicate with you:
 - set boundaries
 - appropriate types of communication
 - availability
 - response times

Supporting Caregivers as Teachers

Tips for Supporting Caregivers as Teachers

Relationships matter

- Ask how you can best support them
- Provide tips for teaching
- Be respectful of their abilities/experience
- Give praise to caregivers, “You are doing a great job!”



Tips for Supporting Caregivers as Teachers

Consistent & Clear

- Communicate with parents directly
- Be consistent with expectations, schedules, amount of work, etc.
- Be clear about when the parent needs to be involved/present
- Provide caregivers clear examples of completed school work



Supporting Students' Virtual Learning

Tips for Supporting Students' Virtual Learning

Relationships Matter

- Maintain your relationship with students
- Record a video of yourself
- Provide multiple ways for students to communicate/engage/connect
 - i.e. drawings, typing, voice/video recording/meetups



Tips for Supporting Students' Virtual Learning

Consistent and Clear

- Stick with tools students already know/use
- Provide virtual experiences similar to classroom
- Utilize tech tools that track work completion
 - Seesaw, Google Classroom, etc.

Tips for Supporting Students' Virtual Learning

Your Role

- Be thoughtful about young children's abilities & needs right now
- Be willing to try, fail, and learn
- Talk to colleagues about what is working for them
- Balance is key; Technology is one tool of many



Age Appropriate Technology Tools for Student Learning

- Wide Open School
- ABCmouse
- PBS Kids Games
- Scholastic Kids



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Thank you!



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