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

Alexis Lauricella, PhD
Associate Professor & Director

Jenna Herdzina, MS
Program Manager

Missi Jacobson, MSW
PhD Student & Research Assistant

Morgan Russo
Graduate Student, Intern
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!

Alexis Lauricella, PhD
Director
alauricella@erikson.edu

Jenna Herdzina
Program Manager
jherdzina@erikson.edu

teccenter.erikson.edu