

Supporting Families Virtually during COVID-19 Outbreak

Technology in Early Childhood (TEC) Center
Erikson Institute

TEC Center resources and opportunities

TEC Center:

Professional Development: www.teccenter.erikson.edu/services/

Educator Tips and Lesson plans: www.teccenter.erikson.edu/category/in-practice/

Research: Contact us at ALauricella@erikson.edu with subject line "Research Interest"

Erikson Institute:

Summer Institutes: www.erikson.edu/continuing-education/learning-institutes/

MSECE STEM Concentration Degree and Certificate programs:

www.erikson.edu/graduate-education/masters-degrees/online-master-science-early-childhood-education/concentration-early-childhood-stem/

Practical 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
- Children are used to their school context being the place where they do the formal learning
- Home may not have the space, technology, environment to best serve learning right now

Supporting connection with families

Relationships Matter- Tips for connecting with families

- 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

Consistent & Clear- Tips for connecting with families

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

Communicating with You- Tips for connecting with families

- Be clear with families about best ways to communicate with you
 - Set boundaries
 - Appropriate types of communication
 - Availability
 - Response times

Resources to help you while connecting with families

- [Erikson Institute's Early Childhood Experts Share 10 Tips for Children & Families Navigating the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- [Common Sense webinar, Education Beyond the Margins: meeting the digital needs of underserved families](#)

Supporting caregivers as teachers

Relationships Matter- Tips for supporting caregivers as teachers

- 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!"

Consistent & Clear- Tips for supporting caregivers as teachers

- 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 clear examples of completed school work

Resources for caregivers as teachers

- [TEC Center's Media Resources for Families](#)
- [PBS Kids for Parents article, How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus, by Deborah Farmer Kris](#)
- [Common Sense Media](#) provides reviews or all types of technology by parents, experts, and children as well as research on children and media use
- PBS article, [At-Home Learning Tips From an Educator Mom](#)

Supporting children's virtual learning

Relationships Matter- Tips for supporting students' virtual learning

- 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

Consistent and Clear- Tips for supporting students' virtual learning

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

Your Role- Tips for supporting students' virtual learning

- 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](#) is a new hub which includes free Pre-K to 12 grade educational content from a plethora of partners including Khan Academy, GoNoodle, PBS, and Scholastic, among many more

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- [ABCmouse](#) includes games, books, and curriculum for children ages 2-8 focused on reading, math, science, and art.
- [PBS Kids Games](#) is a website-based and app-based platform of games from top PBS Kids tv shows.
- [Scholastic Kids](#) includes age appropriate games and books.

Readings for You to Support Students' Virtual Learning

- [Teaching Tolerance's article, Teaching Through Coronavirus: What Educators Need Right Now](#)
- [KQED article, 3 Ways to Turn Your Classroom Remote in a Hurry](#)