Supporting Families Virtually during COVID-19 Outbreak
Technology in Early Childhood (TEC) Center
Erikson Institute

TEC Center resources and opportunities

Technical Center:
- Professional Development: [www.teccenter.ekironson.edu/services/](http://www.teccenter.ekironson.edu/services/)
- Educator Tips and Lesson plans: [www.teccenter.ekironson.edu/category/in-practice/](http://www.teccenter.ekironson.edu/category/in-practice/)
- Research: Contact us at ALauricella@ekironson.edu with subject line “Research Interest”

Erikson Institute:
- Summer Institutes: [www.ekironson.edu/continuing-education/learning-institutes/](http://www.ekironson.edu/continuing-education/learning-institutes/)

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
Erikson Institute
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- 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
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