

Today's Topics: Technology

Overview and Things to Know:

In the classroom, your child may encounter tablets and/or chromebooks. Media devices are designed to be intuitive, and children can learn quickly, so there is no need to feel pressure to practice with these technologies ahead of time.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children has made the following recommendation based on Mr. Rogers' legacy: people working with young children should "carefully and intentionally select and use technology and media if and when it serves healthy development, learning, creativity, interactions with others, and relationships." (second link under dive deeper)

Teaching kids to use devices thoughtfully means setting boundaries, choosing content wisely, and staying involved. This helps build a healthy relationship with technology and encourages balanced development of skills and interests.

CommonSenseMedia.org can be a great resource for evaluating content.

T for Technology is also the T in STEAM. Young children are curious about the world around them and about learning. When possible, try researching the answers to questions together. Talk about the ways that people have invented tools to help us explore or get things done.

Activities We Did:

- We danced to a technology song to get our brains ready to work.
- We used an energy stick to learn about electricity and circuits.
- Stations that focused on different technologies.
- We played pretend with laptops and used the library's read-aloud books.

Things to Try at Home:

- Use your smartphone or other video recorder to record your child doing an activity, such as dancing, singing, or acting out a story. Then switch roles, so that your child gets to be the director/videographer. Watch the videos together and talk about the process.
- Try this to test your own circuits! <https://www.sciencebuddies.org/blog/diy-family-circuit-science>

Songs to Listen to:

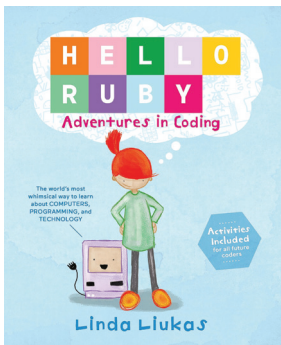
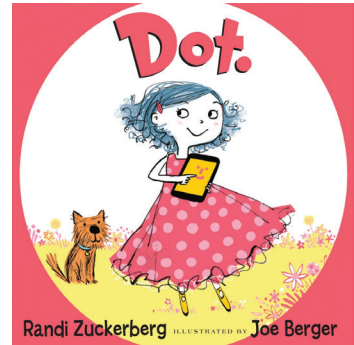
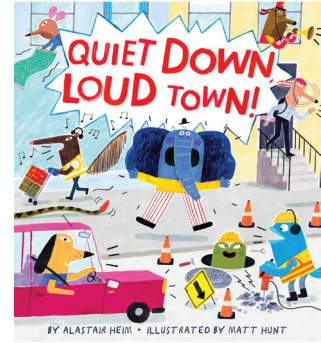
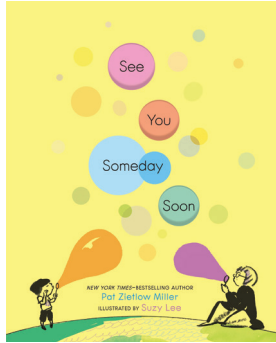
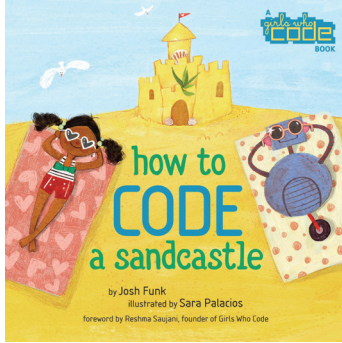
- Songs about technology: Technology by the Kerplunks, Emotional Robot by Caspar Babypants, What is Electricity? by StoryBots, Technology by Big Block Singsong
- Songs that use technology: Light & Day/Reach for the Sun by the Polyphonic Spree, "Clara Rockmore's Lost Theremin Album" (theremin); Just Can't Get Enough by Depeche Mode; Escape by Vince DiCola (synthesizers)

If You Want to Dive Deeper:

- Create your family media plan: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/media/Pages/hhh.aspx#wizard>
- NAEYC and Mr. Rogers Center Position Statement: https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/position-statements/ps_technology.pdf

Books to Check Out

For the Pre-Kindergartners



Wonderbook
THE READ-ALONG

Books that read to you!

VoxBooks
Books that Talk!

For the Grownups

