Technology

Accomplished early childhood teachers use pedagogies that support young children in learning how to use technology as a tool and how to become critical consumers of technology. They evaluate technology as critically as they would any other learning resource, applying such criteria as whether or not the content is developmentally appropriate; linked to curriculum, goals, and learning standards; flexible enough to accommodate the individual needs of all children; and appropriate given the cultural context of the community, families, and children with whom teachers work. Teachers are purposeful in making decisions about when and how to use technology as a vehicle for learning.

Accomplished early childhood teachers are competent with an array of technology, including visual, audio, and assistive technologies as well as computer software and hardware. They are aware of the ever-changing nature of technology, and they stay abreast of new technological developments. Teachers know that technology, used appropriately, has the potential to positively influence children's development and learning.

Accomplished early childhood teachers understand the importance of interacting with young children as they explore technology, not only to protect the devices and ensure child safety, but to expand the learning opportunities that the technology offers. Teachers use various forms of technology to enhance children's natural sense of curiosity and ability to learn. Accomplished teachers understand young children's attitudes toward technology and their ability to interact with it. They also know how young children tend to engage with and think about technology and are familiar with the problems that children typically encounter. For example, an older child may think that calculators always provide the right answers, and a younger child may experience dissonance between the movement of the mouse on the table with the movement of the cursor on the screen. Accomplished teachers anticipate and resolve such issues.

Accomplished early childhood teachers show children how to use technology throughout the curriculum to identify, organize, communicate, collaborate, create, illustrate, demonstrate, research, and collect data as well as to produce presentations, artifacts, and documents. Accomplished teachers ensure that children understand how to use technology safely and cooperatively. Teachers can discuss technology using terminology that is both developmentally appropriate and accurate.

They facilitate children's use of technology to communicate within and beyond the classroom walls, to work collaboratively, and to support individual and group learning. Accomplished teachers find ways to personalize technology to assist the learning of each child.