

Tech Time with Purpose Quick Guide

Digital technology experiences can provide children with exciting opportunities to learn, express their creativity, and even move their bodies. But, when faced with a new technology, it's important to consider the unique needs of your child.

This quick guide from *Tech Time with Purpose: A Creative Approach to Using Digital Devices with Young Children* highlights questions to ask and tips to use before, during, and after your child's digital technology experience.

Before



Gauge your child's interest in the subject.
Is digital technology being used as a motivation or reward when none is actually needed?



Review the age recommendations and content of the product.
Is the product or app appropriate for your child?



Determine how active the experience is.
Are there opportunities for your child to move during the tech experience? If not, how can you incorporate activity into their day?



Ask yourself about your own tech mindset.
Do your best to demonstrate openness when it comes to tech, and try to avoid using the phrase, "I can't."



Try out the digital technology for yourself to learn more about it and how your child will use it.

During



Ask your child open-ended questions, such as, "What do you think will happen next?" or, "Why do you think that happened?"



Encourage collaboration and communication by using digital technology with your child, or invite a friend or sibling to share.



Scaffold your child's experience if necessary.
What helpful hints or guidance can you provide to encourage them, especially if they get frustrated or want to give up?

After



Ask your child to explain to you what they did and what they learned. For example, "Tell me more about what happened," or, "Did you learn anything that will help you next time?"



Talk to your child about the difference between fantasy and reality. Can they tell you which parts of their tech experience were real and which were pretend? How did they know?



Find opportunities to continue your child's learning. This might be accomplished by introducing more challenge, getting books on the topic, or finding a relevant club or camp.

Read *Tech Time with Purpose* in full at www.BADM.org/Tech