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.

- **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?

During

- **Ask your child to explain 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?

After

- **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](http://www.BADM.org/Tech)