USING TECHNOLOGY FOR
SUMMER ENRICHMENT

Technology can provide us with many opportunities to explore new ideas. This guide will offer suggestions and strategies for students and their families around how to use technology to continue learning during the summer months. You can learn about different types of technology, how to access different apps and websites, and how to find technology that supports your and your child's interests.

> " *Play in nature, particularly during the critical period of middle childhood, appears to be an especially important time for developing the capacities for creativity, problem-solving, and emotional and intellectual development.*
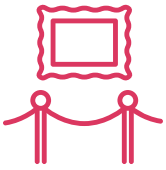>
> **(Kellert, 2005)** "

- "The National Reading Panel found that increasing the time that children spend reading is the most important strategy for improving literacy skills in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Children who are not exposed to and engaged in reading as part of their daily lives are more likely to fall behind in school." (Article) (Original Source: Celano & Neuman, 2001)

- "Families should be aware that, as with many other childhood activities and influences, technology use can have both positive and negative effects depending on use. Adults should expect to set limits, encourage a diversity of experiences both digital and unplugged, and keep in mind that research shows that for young children in-person interactions should be fostered." (U.S. Dept of Ed & U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, 2016)

Recommendations for Using Technology for Summer Enrichment

"TECHNOLOGY" DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN "SCREEN TIME."
Children and their families can interact with technology in a variety of ways that can enrich their learning. Exploring museums in your area can provide access to many types of current and historical technology.

LOOK AT THE ONLINE RESOURCES YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY HAS TO OFFER.
With a library card number, you can gain access to thousands of books to read and listen to through the Libby App. If you do not have a library card, you can use the app to sign up for one at your local library!

TAKE A VIRTUAL VACATION.
Websites such as Google Earth allow you to explore many places beyond your hometown. You can also practice a new language through apps such as Duolingo.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY CAN BE A HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE.
YouTube is a great place to learn how to make almost anything you can think of. Here is sample video that teaches you how to make a Periscope.

NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY GO TOGETHER.
Spend time in nature as a family exploring how plants and animals use their own versions of technology to survive and thrive. Using technology such as binoculars or a magnifying glass can help you get a closer look!

Additional Resources

- Getting Kids Outdoors With Technology: Five online tools that encourage students to get hands-on experience with nature. (Edutopia)

- PBS Kids, A resource for online videos, games, and ideas for activities to do as a family

- Museums in North Carolina, find a museum near you. (NC Dept of Natural and Cultural Resources)

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