

Using Interactive Media in Early Learning

[Music]

Computer Voice: Click the triangle. Triangle.

Narrator: Young children today are exposed to a variety of media and technology. But which are appropriate and effective for children in early childhood programs to use? Although there is still some debate about whether media use is appropriate at all for children in early childhood settings, young children can learn from screen media if teachers make informed choices and use it intentionally. It is often up to teachers to select appropriate media, foster an environment where media use is shared and interactive, integrate its use seamlessly in the classroom, and assess its success in meeting children's learning goals.

Narrator: But how can one do all that? Teachers need to use their knowledge of child development and individual children, combined with education about interactive media options. If limited to reasonable amounts of time, interactive media can offer teachers opportunities to individualize for children who may benefit from using it and to provide all children with digital literacy.

Teacher: Should we start it again? Alright go ahead. Start it up. Alright. Now let's wait and see what happens. Let's wait.

Narrator: Today, children need technology-handling skills as much as book-handling skills for school success. It is important that teachers think about creative media use, such as drawing and manipulating objects, integration with the curriculum, and ways to interact with children to extend their learning beyond the screen.

Child: G-rill.

Teacher: Go-ri-lla.

Child and Teacher: Go-ri-lla.

Teacher: Good!

Narrator: This includes adult-child conversations that connect screen learning with real life and guide children to focus on central concepts. This is an exciting time when technology is evolving to offer many new learning opportunities for young children. Continuing education about new technology and its application to young children's learning is essential for early childhood educators.

Narrator: To find out more about EarlyEdU courses, see our website at www.EarlyEdUAlliance.org.

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