eKids: Birth to Tech @ HCL

Jane Boss, Amy Luedtke, Hilary Murphy
Birth to Six Computer Project

The best technology experiences for children involve a caregiver, are engaging, and let the child take the lead.
Birth to Six Computer Project

Talk, Sing, Read, Write, Play...Together!

Enjoy these five simple yet powerful ways to prepare your children to become readers!

talk together
Children learn about language by listening and joining in the conversation. Talk as you play and choose books that interest your children to talk about!

sing together
Fingerplays, Rhymes & Songs slow down language so children can hear the different sounds that make up words. Ask a librarian to help you find familiar or new songs to sing together.

read together
Shared reading gets children ready to read. Kids who are read to are more likely to enjoy reading themselves. Read To Me videos show how fun and easy shared reading is.

write together
Encourage your children to write or draw. A first step to writing is to stimulate small motor muscle control with toys and art supplies.
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“It’s nice to have two chairs, so that I can sit with my child.”

“I really like having two sets of headphones, so that both of my kids can sit together and listen to Tumblebooks.”
iPads in Storytime

- To Provide App Advisory, helping guide caregivers to the best of the digital playground
- To have fun, keep it fresh, and play with the five early literacy practices
iPads in Storytime

Balancing Digital & Traditional Content:

• “I am strong on traditional content but spice it up with digital content when it fits easily into my theme of the week.”

• “I try to keep the digital content a very small portion of the overall storytime. I alternate real felt and digital felt boards. I will use sounds for fun, or to extend literacy content. I find that it provides a certain level of fun and excitement, much like that caused by traditional tools like puppets and props.”

• “I have stuck to traditional print books for reading in storytime, but I think the sing/play/write/talk practices translate super easily to digital content.”
iPads in Storytime

Providing Support

• An on-going mailing list
• In-person meetings to share ideas
• Creating a table for trying apps out at our latest Storytime Resource Training Session
iPads and Early Literacy: a Together Project

• Pilot program funded by LSTA grant
• Provide iPads with early literacy apps for patrons to check out and use in the library (2 iPads at 8 locations)
• iPads are intended for young children (pre-readers) to use interactively and together with a caregiver
• Apps are selected and organized to align with ALA’s “Every Child Ready to Read” practices: talk, sing, read, write, play
iPads and Early Literacy: a Together Project

Early literacy app advisory for the public is key:

• Presentations for caregivers
• Point-of-service conversations
• Brochure
iPads and Early Literacy: a Together Project

App Advisory:

• Talk, sing, read, write, play with apps
• Apps can supplement, not replace, books
• Explore apps together
• Choose apps with:
  o Meaningful interactive elements
  o Intuitive wayfinding
  o Clear fonts
  o Uncluttered displays