Early Education As Art:
Engaging children, Inspiring learning,
Transforming teaching

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Who Am I

- Teacher for 37 years
- Early Childhood Educator
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Overview

- Children & Learning
- Engaging Environments
- Inspirational Pedagogy
- Transformations
- Case Study
- Challenges to ECE
- Investing in Early Education
Young Children construct understanding through:

- Authentic, active, meaningful, hands-on experiences
- Extended explorations
- Community collaborations
- Playful activities
Engaging Environments

Young children learn best where:

- Feel good about themselves
- Actively explore the world
- Materials match interests & needs
- Natural & prepared environments
- Can problem-solve with peers
Engaging Environments

- Classrooms
- Shared spaces
- Natural areas
- Student-centered
- Multidimensional
Inspiring Learning

Teachers support learning by:

- Best pedagogical practices
- Thoughtful intentionality
- Student-centered activities
- Inspiring a sense of wonder and desire to learn
Key Concepts:

- Learning takes time
- Motivation is internal
- Student-centered big ideas
- Diversity of personality and process is respected
“Teaching is an art in the sense that teachers, like painters, composers, ... make judgments based largely on qualities that unfold during the course of action”

Elliot Eisner
Transforming Through:

Reconceptualizing Teaching & Assessments

Transforming Through Community
Transforming Through:
Manipulative Materials
Transforming Through:

Technological Tools
What is Technology

Tools to empower, enhance, & transform learning
Imagine A Learning Tool...

- portable device
- single user (most frequently)
- user generally uncommunicative
- steep learning curve (years to mastery)
- not upgradable
- can precipitate deep change in user
It’s not the technology, it’s how you use it.
Technology and Interactive Media as Tools in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth through Age 8

Television was once the newest technology in our homes, and then came videos and computers. Today's children are growing up in a rapidly changing digital age that is far different from that of their parents and grandparents. A variety of technologies are all around us in our homes, offices, and schools. When used wisely, technology and media can support learning and relationships. Engaging and engaging shared experiences that optimize the potential for children's learning and development can support children's relationships both with adults and their peers.

Thanks to a rich body of research, we know much about how young children grow, learn, play, and develop. There has never been a more important time to apply principles of development and learning when considering the use of cutting-edge technologies and new media. When the integration of technology and interactive media in early childhood programs is built upon solid developmental foundations, and early childhood professionals are aware of both the challenges and the opportunities, educators are positioned to improve program quality by intentionally leveraging the potential of technology and media for the benefit of every child.

This statement is intended primarily to provide guidance to those working in early childhood education programs serving children from birth through age 8. Although not developed as a guide for families in the selection and use of technology and interactive media in their homes, the information here may be helpful to inform such decisions.

NAEYC and the Fred Rogers Center do not endorse or recommend software, hardware, curriculum, or other materials.
Using Technologies with Children

A Framework for Quality:
Digital media should take into account:

- Child
- Content
- Context
Supports:
- child initiated,
- child directed,
- teacher supported,
- play with digital devices
Exploring Digital Tools

- Microscopes
- Tablet Computers
- Cameras
Exploring Digital Tools: Microscopes

Microscopes: Empowering New Perspectives
Exploring Digital Tools: Microscopes

Exploring Deeply
Exploring Digital Tools: Microscopes

- Wired, wireless, or affixed
- Computer screen
- Meaningful connections
- Intentional provocation
- Relevant realia
Exploring Digital Tools: Microscopes

Bringing yourself up close
Exploring Digital Tools: Microscopes

Bringing the world up close
Exploring Digital Tools: Microscopes
Exploring Digital Tools: Microscopes
Exploring Digital Tools: Microscopes
Exploring Digital Tools: Microscopes
Exploring Digital Tools: Microscopes

Outdoor Use
In what ways does the surface of a leaf, look the same and different from the surface of your skin?
Microscopes: Quintessential ECE Tool

- Effective in supporting wondering
- Extend authentic learning
- Empower exploration
- Multiple platforms
- Inherently motivating
- Not inexpensive
Exploring Digital Tools: Tablets

Handheld Computing: Child-Friendly Format

Multiple platforms: tablets, pods & phones
Tablets: *The Children’s Machine*
Exploring Digital Tools: Tablets

Tablets and Literacy
Exploring Digital Tools: Tablets
Reconceptualizing Books

- ABC Book
- Hop on Pop
- The Monster at the End of the Book
- Cinderella
- Numberlys
- Just Grandma & Me
and many more

Aunt Annie’s alligator ..........
A...a...A
Walking slowly inside he discovered the most mysterious and inviting room he had ever seen. It was filled with the fluttering of countless pages, and Morris thought he could hear the faint chatter of a thousand different stories, as if each book was whispering an invitation to adventure.
Exploring Digital Tools: Tablets

Book Creator

Doodlecast

Available on the App Store
for iPhone, iPod touch and iPad
“Long time ago my sister and me went to the ELC and it’s the one we’re in right now and when she came out a lot of times she would pick me up and we would talk together.”
Exploring Digital Tools: Tablets

Tapikeo HD
Augmentative Alternative Communication

• Storyboards, Pictureboards
• Flashcards
• Match pictures to words or sounds
Exploring Digital Tools: Tablets

Myriad Apps for Exploration
Handheld Computing:

• Extremely versatile tool
• Incredible variety of software
• Literacy, numeracy, science, creativity, photography…
• Software ranges from awful to excellent
Digital Cameras:
Documenting, creating, and demonstrating learning
Exploring Digital Tools: Digital Cameras
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Exploring Digital Tools: Digital Cameras

Video
Storyography:
Empowering children’s voices through multimedia storymaking
Exploring Digital Tools: Digital Cameras
Supporting Literacy

**Storyography**
- Storymaking emerges from imaginative play
- Student directed & documented narrative
- Supported by intentional teacher

**Requires**
- Close teacher scaffolding
- Bookbinding materials
- Digital camera, computer, printer
Exploring Digital Tools: Digital Cameras
Supporting Literacy

Student Creates Story Dictated
Exploring Digital Tools: Digital Cameras
Supporting Literacy

Photographing Each Image
Exploring Digital Tools: Digital Cameras
Supporting Literacy

The dragonfly is guarding the house.

He doesn’t want anybody to come because the baby horse is eating his food.
Exploring Digital Tools: Digital Cameras
Supporting Literacy

Digital Camera Use

- Student-initiated and directed
- Extends experiences
- Sharing & revisiting
- Not necessarily expensive
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study

Britanic - Doctor Ship sailing, it was a big monster
when it was down.

The stern was where the propellers are.
The bow is where the propellers are.

The stern went down first. The ship went down first.

This is the hole where it sank. When you hear "Boom", it's sinking. It's going to tip over.

By Luke M and Ms Aja
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study
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How to Support?
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study

$25
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study

Doodlecast

Titanic

Book Creator
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study

“gears that will pump water out of the hull”
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study

“A mop to swab the deck”
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study

Rare Titanic letter describing 'wonderful' journey is auctioned to American bidder

Annabel Roberts
TODAY contributor

April 26, 2014 at 4:45 PM ET

Video: A touching letter co-written by a 7-year-old British girl fetched $200,000 at auction today. It was written aboard the Titanic on the day the ship struck an iceberg in 1912. NBC’s Annabel Roberts has the story.
On board R.M.S "Titanic."

February 10th

My dear one all,

As you see it is Sunday afternoon and I am writing in the Library after Luncheon. I was very bad all day yesterday, could not eat or drink, sleep at all the while, but today I have felt better. This morning I went to church and the service was a pleasure.

Heaps of love and kisses to all from

Eva X X X X X

Mrs. Bloomfield
Shipton,
Kholebone Village,
Chadwell Heath.
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study
Listen, Go Deep, Empower: Case Study

2nd Day

Britannic: Doctor Ship
when it was sailing it was a big monster

The stem was down first

This is the hole where it sank when you hear "Boom" its sinking it's going to tip over.

The bow is where the propellers are.

By Luke H
and
His age

2nd Month
8th Month

Titanic - Transmedia Learning

- Manipulatives & literacy tools
- CD ROM, computer and books
- Tablet & storymaking apps
- Web-based resources
- Digital camera
Titanic - Transmedia Learning

- Teachers listened to all languages
-Supported across range of media
-Intentional selection of materials
-Deep exploration of relevant concepts
-Empowered new forms of learning
-Social, emotional, physical, conceptual, perspective
Intentional, Appropriate, & Effective Uses of Technology: Best Practices Database
Showcasing Powerful Technologies:

Best Practices Database

tinyurl.com/ecebestpractices

Select an app to read materials and to see images and video of powerful pedagogical practices connected with each device.

tinyurl.com/ecebestpractices
Digital Microscopes

Description
One of the great joys of early learning occurs when young children experience seeing the world in new and unexpected ways. Digital Microscopes can provide such a perspective. They empower children's insight when they are used as a manipulative tool that provides them with perspectives that are engaging and unique.

Most digital microscopes must be connected to a screen such as a computer. The best way to begin to use a digital microscope is to simply turn it on and hand it to a child. Almost without exception children (of all ages) will point it at their bodies (ear, eye, tummy...) and be fascinated with what they see. Providing learners with items that contain interesting textures and surfaces will allow them to connect their sense of touch with the image of the surface they are sensing.

Our preferred tool is a ProScope HD microscope. These can be connected to a computer in a classroom, at an exploration station, or outside in the natural environment. This microscope not only displays high definition digital images on the computer screen, but with the push of a button, it can capture photographs of what is being displayed for later discussion, story writing, or posting on a blog.

Suggestions for use
Classroom - Set up a computer (desktop or laptop or tablet) with HD software and microscope. Orient screen so that it is easy for the students to manipulate the scope and view the screen simultaneously. The scope can be particularly powerful when used for explorations of the human body as there is nothing more concrete than one's own body
Scope is also excellent for explorations of all manner of surfaces including
- Natural materials such as rocks and minerals, shells, wood, insects, and plants such as molds.
- Man made materials such as Metals, plastics, fabrics, various types of papers,
- Interesting small details such as dates on coins or bills, watch parts, facets of jewelry.
It’s not the technology, it’s how you use it.
Challenges to ECE

- Poverty
- Equal Access
- Neoliberal commodification
- Competition
- Sooner/Faster
- Testing
- Funding
Concerns with Oregon Kindergarten Assessment

- Questionable predictive validity
- Culturally & developmentally inappropriate
- Stress on young children
- Standardized does not mean better
- Testing vs community building
- Other viable options
What makes School Name a good place to be and to learn? What makes it different from other schools? What can you do to make School Name an even better school?

School Name is a good place because of the teachers and staff who make going to school worth it. I feel that's why School Name is a great place. School Name has very good teachers compared to other schools. The play structure, the rules, and the kids, if I improve my Oslo score I could help or school and be a better person.
Investing in Early Education

- Children are OUR future
- Respect childhood
- **Invest** time & money
- Small class sizes
- Less standardization
- Teachers as professionals
Conclusions: Education as Art

Early Childhood Education:

• Child development & learning theory
• Engaging environments & materials
• Best practices
• Inspiring teachers
Conclusions: Education as Art

The Art of Teaching

• Build community
• Listen to needs of learners
• Encourage deep explorations that engage
• Utilize appropriate, empowering tools
• To support innovation & playful learning
Let's all work together to envision, advocate for, fund, and create better learning environments for the world’s children.
Early Education as Art:
Engaging children, Inspiring learning, Transforming teaching

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Technology and Young Children: From Theory To Practice

Educational Resources

- Why Parents Should Be Concerned: [http://www.parentchildpreschools.org/KRAParentdoc5514modifiedJI.pdf](http://www.parentchildpreschools.org/KRAParentdoc5514modifiedJI.pdf)
- We’re number umpteenth: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2013/05/03/were-number-umpteenth-the-myth-of-lagging-u-s-schools/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2013/05/03/were-number-umpteenth-the-myth-of-lagging-u-s-schools/)
- Erikson TEC Center: [http://teccenter.erikson.edu/](http://teccenter.erikson.edu/)
- Tech and Young Children: [www.techandyoungchildren.org/](http://www.techandyoungchildren.org/)
- Fred Rogers Center: [http://www.fredrogerscenter.org](http://www.fredrogerscenter.org)