Using Technology Tools

- Technology can be a great educational tool, and it doesn’t have to be complex. Here are some simple ideas:

  Record children’s voices with a recorder as they tell a story and play it back to them.
  
  Make a book of what happened during the day using pictures from a smartphone or digital camera.
  
  Use old cell phones to promote conversations and engage in imaginary play (Make sure to remove the battery first!)

- Think of media as you would a book. Be present with the child and play with the technology together.

- Children are engaged in new technologies because they are exciting and they see the adults in their lives using them. Promote their curiosity, pick high-quality and age-appropriate content, and be thoughtful about how technology fits into your learning goals!

First Steps:

Next time you ask your child how their day was, use imaginary phones. It could be an old cell phone, a banana, or even just your fingers.

When you go on a walk or trip, take pictures of what you see. Print the pictures to make a story book. Even if a child cannot read yet, you can ask him or her to tell you what is happening in the pictures. Or, flip through the pictures on the device and ask the child to describe what’s happening in the pictures.

For more information and activities to support early literacy, visit the Fred Rogers Center Early Learning Environment™ at www.yourele.org!