

CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY POLICY

AIM

To maximise the benefits of using TV, DVDs, computers and iPads to extend the children's current interest, engagement and development.

IMPLEMENTATION

Leadership will:

- Ensure this policy is aligned with DECD guidelines and follows the site's review procedure

Team leaders will:

- Ensure staff are aware of and implementing this policy
- Ensure educators do not expose children to more than 30 minutes of screen time per week unless related to project work or curriculum.
- Will remind educator that screen time is not recommended for babies and children less than two years of age, particularly in early childhood setting, because it may:
 - Reduce the amount of time they have for active play, social contact with others and chances for language development.
 - Affect the development of the full range of eye movement.
 - Reduce the length of time they can stay focused.

Educators will:

- Restrict use of computers/iPads to a maximum of five minutes for each year of age per day i.e. a 3 year old could use the computer for 15 minutes.
- Determine the use of technology to suit the curriculum and children's interests.
- Monitor children's time using the computer/ iPads with a timer and their own discretion.
- Recognise that there is a place in the curriculum where educational resources on television can be used to extend children's interests and current understandings. An example of this is children may have gone on an excursion to the museum and taken particular interest in the dinosaurs. The educator may then source a dinosaur DVD to extend on children's understandings.

Some benefits include:

- Supporting and extending individual children's interests.
- Enhancing the development of language, literacy, numeracy and problem solving skills.
- Providing them with new information or perspectives about the world.
- Encourage physical movement and development through activity based programs such as yoga or dance.
- Increasing their attention span and ability to focus.
- Providing them with time to relax.
- Preview DVDs to assess suitability for children. All programs must carry a P, C or G rating.

- Recognise that positive gains from television are maximised when an interested educator watches and interacts with the children.
- Encourage limited and selected viewing.
- Prepare children for what they are going to see.
- Interpret with the children what is happening.
- Talk through ideas and anxieties (with possible reference to protective behaviours).
- Discuss standards and values expressed.
- Relate the program to the child's own life if appropriate.
- Ensure other experiences are offered for children who do not wish to participate.
- Be aware of and avoid programs which reinforce/ perpetuate restrictive understandings of issues such as violence as a means of resolving conflict, role stereotypes, gender stereotypes, racial discrimination, people with a disability.
- Not use television or iPads as entertainment through fruit, snack or lunch time or during the holidays.

EVALUATION:

This policy is viewed to be working effectively when

- Children are given many opportunities to become familiar with different technologies and how they can aid learning
- Television programs are selected by care staff to complement the curriculum.
- Other activities to be offered at the same time are written on the program.

National Quality Standards:

1.1.2 Curriculum decision making is informed by the context, setting and cultural diversity of the families and the community.

Record of Policy Adoption and Amendment:

Version	Date	Details	Author	Approver
1.0	January 2011	Policy adopted.	Ocean View Children's Centre	Governing Council
1.1	June 2012	Policy circulated to Policy Review Committee and staff for review and suggested amendments identified, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSQ regulations and requirements • Time frames of use • Connection within the curriculum 	K Cook	
2.0	November 2012	Suggested amendments put to Policy Review Committee and adopted, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above and to include iPads as another form of technology/media 	K Cook	Policy Review Committee

2.1	February 2015	Reformatted and changed to reflect current practice	P Murray	Policy Review Committee
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Review: To be reviewed at bi-annually by the Assistant Director and any recommended amendments endorsed by the Policy Review Committee.

Source:

'Get Up and Grow' Healthy Eating and Physical Activity for Early Childhood. Department of Health and Ageing.

Resource:

DECD- Video/DVD viewing policy.

'Using television in child care'- Angela Owens.

NCAC.