

Intentional Use of Technology and Interactive Media in Early Learning



Module 2 - Families

How to Increase Access by Connecting with Families



Trainer Does:

- Introduce yourself and share the module title and subtitle.
- Share opening video by clicking on the robot slide. [Technology Summary Final - YouTube](#)
- Emphasize the following key points:
 - Media be used in positive ways to support children's learning and healthy development.
 - It's important to keep tabs on the amount of time children spend using media — not necessarily eliminate it — and balance their time at home with opportunities to learn and grow.

Picture retrieved from: The Division of Early Learning

Agenda

Agenda



1. Division of Early Learning's (DEL's) Best Practices
2. Guiding Principles
3. Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards(FELDS) Resources

2

Trainer Says:

Before beginning the module, it will be helpful to download the following documents: *"The Role of Technology and Interactive Media in the Education and Development of Preschool-Age Children"*, and *"Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards"* located at the **Content Support Documents** section of the Professional Learning Module.
<http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/dirttoolplm.html>.

Trainer Does:

Read the agenda items to the participants.

Best Practices: Activity

DEL has reviewed contemporary research through the lens of developmentally appropriate practice to provide insight into how families and educators might effectively support preschoolers to meaningfully engage with, and benefit from, technology and interactive media.



3

Trainer Says:

As we look through the **Best Practices for Use of Technology and Interactive Media – Role of Technology and Interactive Media in the Education and Development of Preschool Age Children** document from DEL, we will reflect on the **Technology and Families** section, which focuses on how parents/caregivers can support their children when using technology. I will give you a few minutes to read the passage and later we will have a brief reflection.

What do you agree with in the passage?

What do you disagree with?

What direction will you begin to take as an early educator?

Trainer Does:

Assigns group to review the Technology and Families section and reflect as a whole group.

Trainer Needs to Know:

If each section was completed during Module 1, refer group/participants to highlight the importance of technology and families.

Guiding Principles Overview

- The use of technology and interactive media with young children is most effective when adults act as viewing partners and provide thoughtful interaction throughout the experience (Zero to Three, 2014).
- Technology and interactive media can be used to support and enhance relationships between families, educators, communities, and young children (U.S. Department of Education, & U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2016).



4

Trainer Does:

Read both guiding principles to the participants.

Trainer Says:

"We will explore these principles further."

Guiding Principle



*The use of **technology** and interactive media with young children is **most effective** when adults act as viewing partners and provide thoughtful **interaction** throughout the experience (Zero to Three, 2014).*



5

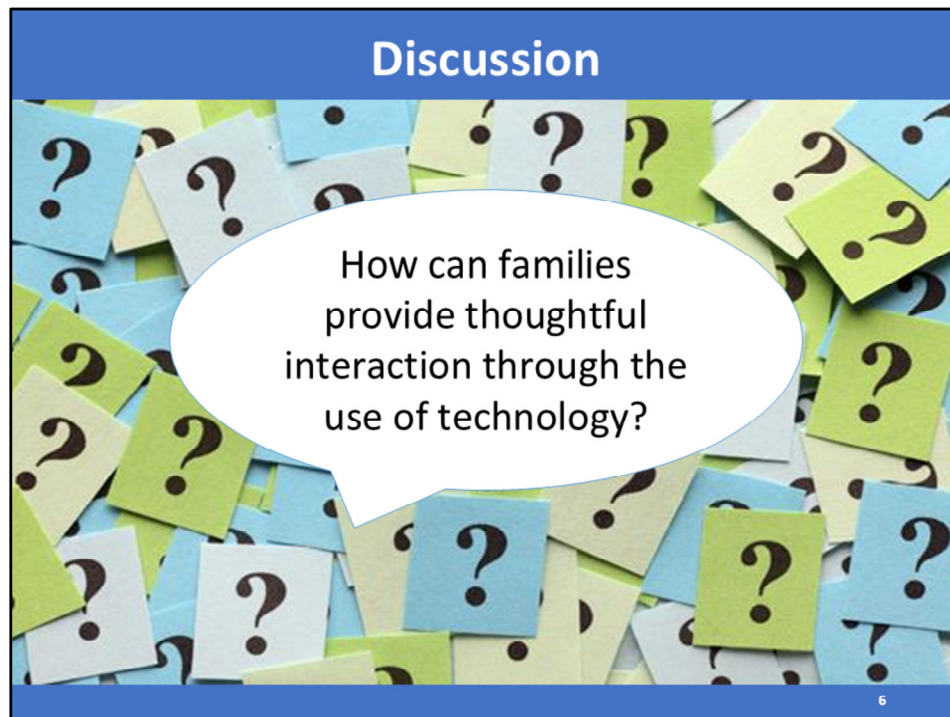
Trainer Does:

Ask participants the following questions :

“What do you **agree** with in the Zero to Three’s guiding principle?

“What do you **disagree** with in the guiding principle?

“What parts of the guiding principles do you want to aspire to?



Trainer Does:

Ask participants the question on the slide and use the following technology tools to view responses.

- Use the features of your video conferencing platforms, for example, Zoom chat, whiteboard, etc.

The following tools can be used to support this activity, if trainer is comfortable with them.

- Padlet- <https://padlet.com/>
- Dotstorming- <https://dotstorming.com/>

DEL Suggests



- Research suggests that parental media use is a strong predictor of children's future media behaviors.
- It is essential that families provide both balance and moderation when using technology and interactive media with, and around, young children.

7

Trainer Does:

Read the DEL's suggestion on the slide and provide these important key points below.

1. Prioritize language-promoting activities you can do with your child at home that don't involve screens, like book reading and having back-and-forth conversations.
2. Interact with your child while using media at home. Use digital apps and games alongside your child to expose them to new vocabulary and concepts and enhance the learning experience by asking questions.

Pictures retrieved from The Division of Early Learning

Effective Use of Technology



Figure 1: National Educational Plan (2020)

<https://tech.ed.gov/files/2016/10/Early-Learning-Tech-Graphic1.png>



Trainer Says:

According to **DEL's Best Practices for Use of Technology and Interactive Media – Role of Technology and Interactive Media in the Education and Development of Preschool Age Children**, there are many ways that adult involvement can make learning more effective for young children using technology. Adult guidance that can increase active use of more passive technology includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Prior to the child viewing the content, an adult can talk to the child about the content and suggest certain elements to watch for or pay particular attention to;
- An adult can view the content with the child and interact with the child in the moment;
- After a child views the content, an adult can engage the child in an activity that extends learning such as singing a song they learned while viewing the content or connecting the content to the world.

Guiding Principle

Technology and interactive media can be used
to **support** and **enhance relationships**
between families, educators, communities,
and young children.

U.S. Department of Education, & U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services, 2016



9

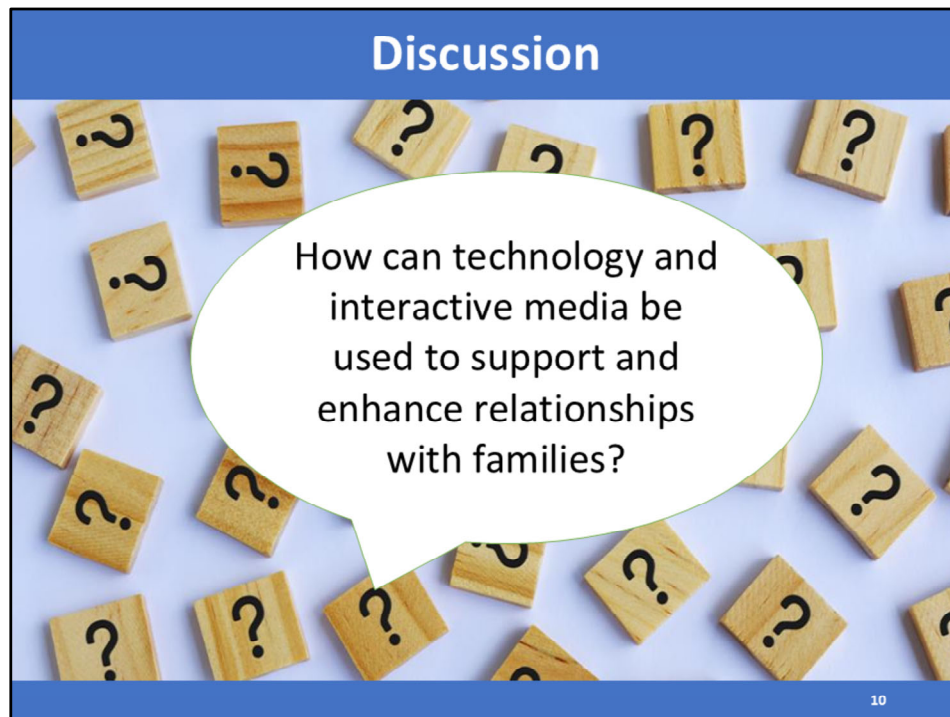
Trainer Does:

Ask the following questions to participants:

“What do you **agree** with in this guiding principle?”

“What do you **disagree** with in the guiding principle?”

“What parts of the guiding principles do you want to aspire to?”



Trainer Does:

Ask participants the question on the slide and use the following technology tools to view responses.

- Use the features of your video conferencing platforms, for example, Zoom chat, whiteboard, etc.

The following tools can be used to support this activity, if trainer is comfortable with them.

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- Dotstorming- <https://dotstorming.com/>

Technology and Social Interaction



Figure 2: National Educational Plan (2020)

<https://tech.ed.gov/files/2016/10/Early-Learning-Tech-Graphic2.png>



Trainer Says:

According to DEL's **Best Practices for Use of Technology and Interactive Media – Role of Technology and Interactive Media in the Education and Development of Preschool Age Children**,

“While technology has the power to bridge the physical divide between children and loved ones in the ways described, technology should not be used to replace meaningful face-to-face interactions.”

DEL Best Practices Suggest



Young children benefit from strong media role models and limited screen time.



12

Trainer Does:

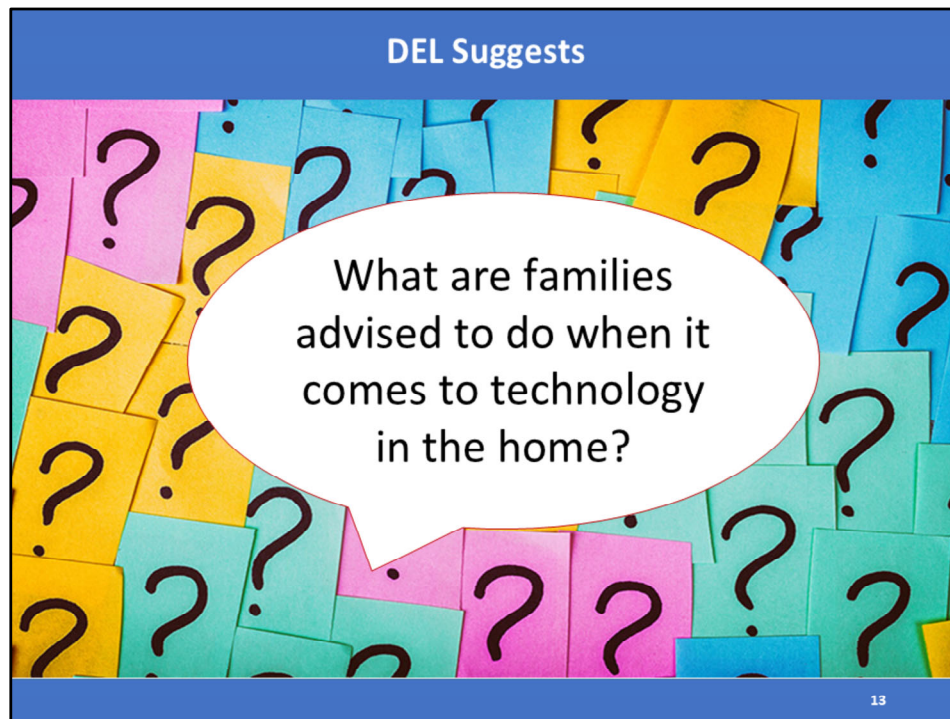
- Read DEL's **Best Practices for Use of Technology and Interactive Media – Role of Technology and Interactive Media in the Education and Development of Preschool Age Children**

suggestions on how interactive media can be used as a tool to support families.

- Click on image to access website.

Trainer says:

According to our DEL's **Best Practices** document, technology should never take the place of hands-on activities, unstructured play, and social interactions, which are all strongly correlated to the development of cognitive, language and social skills.



Trainer Does:

Read question.

This is not a discussion question, but rather a question to introduce the next slide.

Trainer says:

"Let's think about the question on the slide.

In the next slide, DEL will provide the following suggestions for families to consider when implementing technology in their homes."

DEL Suggests



Families are advised to consider the **child, content, and context**.

- The **child's** age, interests, abilities, emerging skills and attention span are important factors when choosing appropriate technology and interactive media.
- **Content** should be meaningful, relevant to real life, interactive, and engaging.
- Finally, the **context** of the media experience is important to consider.

14

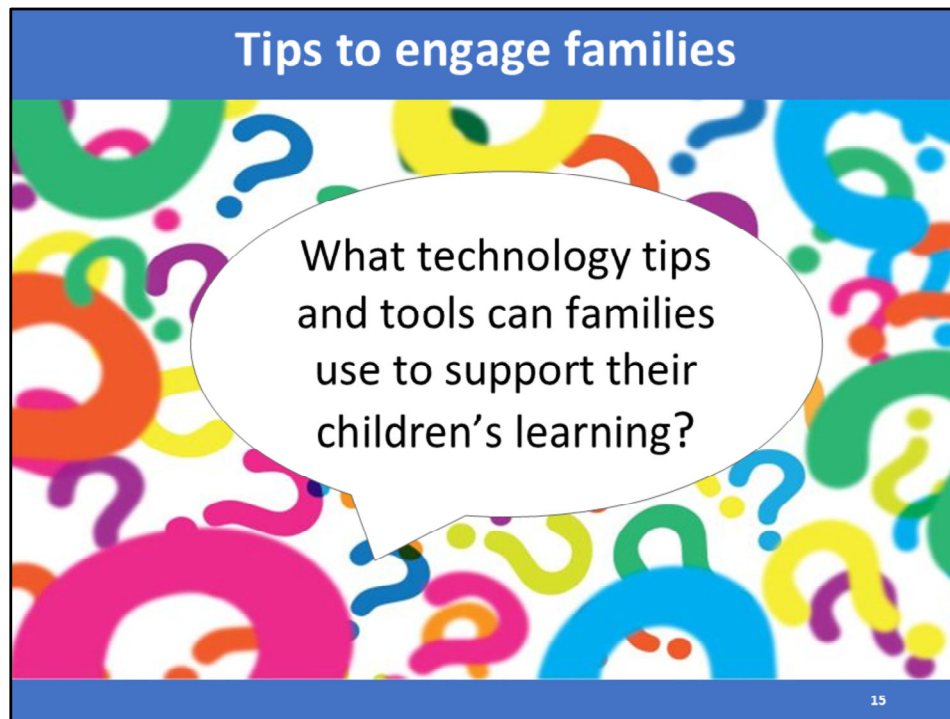
Trainer Does:

- Read the bulleted **key points** on the slide.

Trainer says:

Before using media with children, ask yourself the following questions:

- How does this help children engage, express, imagine or explore?
- How does it complement (not interrupt) children's natural play?
- How do we choose the right tech tools?



Trainer Does:

Read the question on the slide.

This is not a discussion question, but rather a question to introduce the next slide.

Trainer says:

"In the next slide, DEL will provide the following technology tips and tools to families that can support their children's learning."

Tips to Engage Families

- Gather information
- Document and share
- Share favorite apps
- Open communication pathways
- Meet families where they are
- Model and discuss appropriate tech use



16

Trainer Says:

Here are a few examples on how to engage families through the use of technology and media.

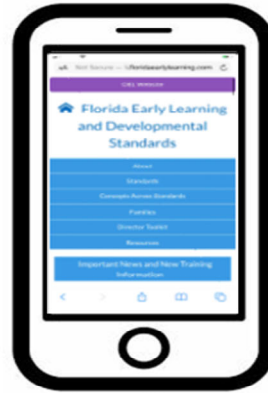
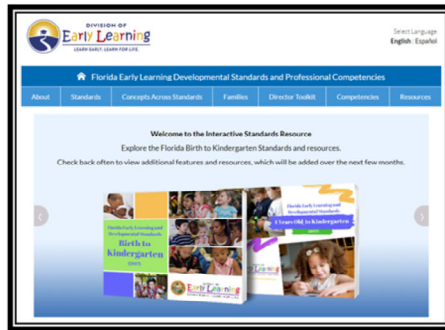
- **Gather information:** Teachers can create a survey to determine if the children's families own tech tools like computers, smart phones or tablets.
- **Document and Share:** Invite family members to document early learning activities at home using technology—for example, a family can make a video of their child explaining the story behind her drawing.
- **Open communication pathways:** Providing flexible differentiated ways of communication and instruction can enhance school and family connection. (Zoom, Google Hangouts, What's-app, ClassDojo)
- **Meet families where they are:** Promote support of families and educators by eliminating technology barriers that include access and location. (provide access in a family's home language and culture)
- **Model and Discuss appropriate tech use:** Consider screen time when determining appropriate limits to preschool age children based on a home or school flexible environment. (setting up a schedule or routine)

Trainer Notes:

Picture retrieved from The Division of Early Learning.

Florida Early Learning and Development Standards (FELDS)

FELDS Website to Support Families



17

Trainer Does:

- Read the slide.
- Click on image to access website.
- Explore the FELDS website and provide participants with a virtual walkthrough of the family section.

Picture retrieved from [Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards](http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/index.html)-Link:
<http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/index.html>

“Families May”

Actively participate
with your child

Monitor children’s
screen time

Discuss how tools
and technology
assist our daily lives



18

Trainer Does:

Read each “*Families may*” statement and provide the following examples.

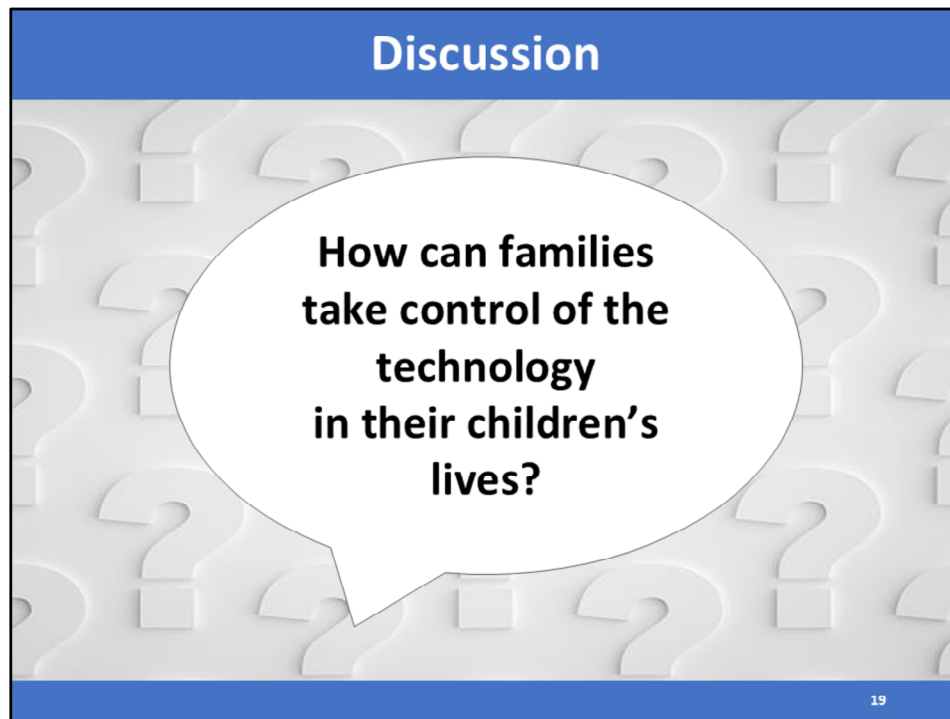
Actively participate with your child when watching television or using the computer, and limit daily screen time, especially before bedtime.

Monitor children’s screen time for quality and appropriate content.

Discuss how tools and technology assist our daily lives (e.g., electricity, plumbing, cars, computers, etc.)

Trainer Says:

By exploring the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (FELDS) website, you will be able to locate how families can support their children by implementing the use of technology.



Trainer Does:

Ask participants the question on the slide and use the following technology tools to view responses.

Use the features of your video conferencing platforms, for example, Zoom chat, whiteboard, etc.

The following tools can be used to support this activity, if trainer is comfortable with them.

Padlet- <https://padlet.com/>

Dotstorming- <https://dotstorming.com/>

- Explore The Role of Technology and Interactive Media in the Education and Development of Preschool-Age Children.
 - Seek out high-quality, research-based media products and programs for children to engage with at home.


Choosing Media Content



Engaging

Actively Involved

Meaningful

Social



20

Trainer Says:

DEL's Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (FELDS) family section provides links to standards for each age group and lists ideas for supporting children in all domains under the "Families May" sections. [Division of Early Learning - Early Learning and Developmental Standards \(floridaearlylearning.com\)](http://floridaearlylearning.com)

Refer to the E-Aims Model resource for this slide discussion.

1. Engaging e-book (avoid pop-ups or outside features not related to story)
2. Active involvement with the content
3. Does it reflect child's everyday life and experiences? (avoid too many imaginary elements, unfamiliar activities)
4. Does it encourage child to talk, respond and interact with me?

Choosing Media Content for Young Children Using the E-Aims Model / [Choosing Media Content for Young Children Using the E-AIMS Model | ZERO TO THREE](http://zerotothree.org)

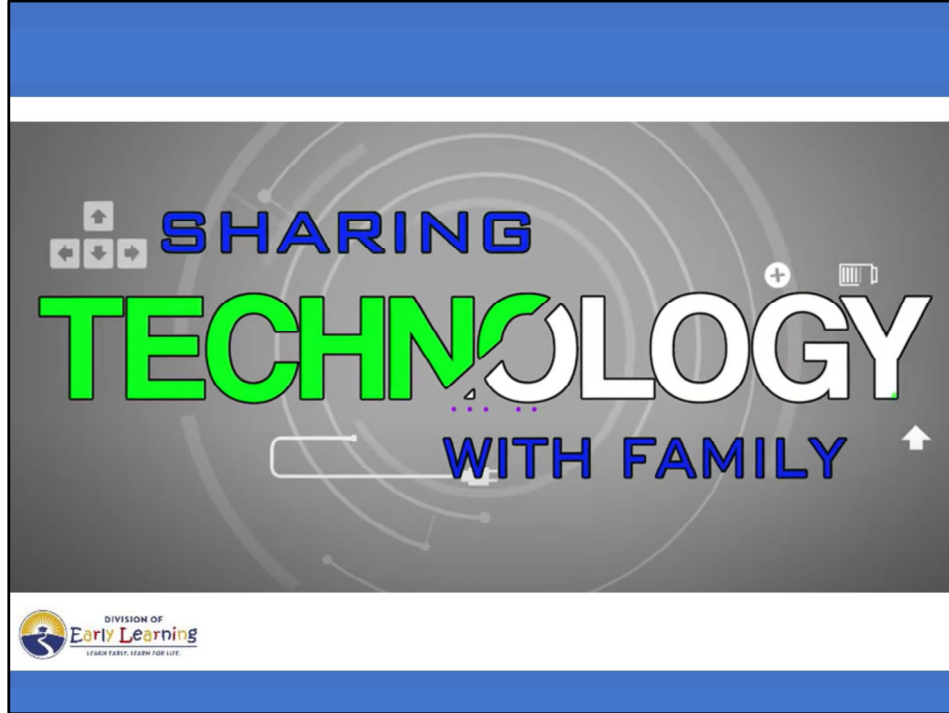
[Screen Sense Screen-Sense -Executive-Summary.pdf \(zerotothree.org\)](http://zerotothree.org)

Engaging Actively Involved Meaningful Social

Website link: <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/choosing-media-content-for-young-children-using-the-e-aims-model/>

Articles are from Zero-to-Three

Picture retrieved from the Florida Early learning Standards Website-Family Section



Trainer Does:

Show video and discuss

Ask the following:

What examples of actively involved, meaningfully involved and social engagement did you see in this clip?

Next Steps

Revisit Tech Resources

1. Review the Support Documents and Instructional Resources in the module.
2. Find a teacher/partner, director or coach to support you as you rethink how to connect with families.



21

Trainer Notes:

- Discuss the next steps for participants to complete.
- Ask the following questions to participants:
 1. How will you share these resources with families? Example, parent teacher conferences, open houses, meets and greets, etc.
 2. What recommendations would you provide to families in helping them navigate the digital world?

Trainer Needs To Know:

This completes the Technology Module. **Optional:** Trainer can create a reflection session (virtual or in person) where participants can provide best practices and recommendations.