

**Ensuring Early Literacy Achievement: Become a Catalyst for Change**  
**Small Group Discussion – Technology**  
**Tuesday, July 26, 2005**

**How can educational technology accelerate the development of literacy with ELL students?**

1. Ease of repetition
2. Allows for individuality by filling background knowledge gaps
3. A way to engage kids in a non-threatening way
4. Puts together visual, auditory, kinesthetic, tactile learning styles
5. Provides assessment
6. Pictures provide concrete basis for vocabulary, words, phrases, video
7. Another pathway to engage and motivate children to learn
8. Helps develop technical skills and vocabulary
9. Non-biased opinions
10. Immediate feedback
11. Self-pacing

**What barriers currently exist to the wider use of educational technology?**

1. People are scared, inexperienced
2. Don't know what is best to buy/order. Don't know enough of what it will be.
3. Hard to find or determine age-appropriate software
4. Funding is difficult. Have \$ for hardware, not software.
5. How to schedule computer time? Rigid schedules/resistance to incorporating into schedule.
6. Even if they have hardware, some may be out of date (old computers freeze).
7. Lack of knowledge about how to make technology work/how to introduce to young children
8. Not enough time to tutor/teaching children how to use mouse or gain familiarity with keyboard
9. Specific training for teachers to make sense of the reports is needed
10. Also want follow-up support after training, otherwise teachers will be unwilling to use technology
11. If it seems like fun and games, they think children aren't learning. Some don't see the underlying thought processes.

**How will the spread of educational technology change the roles of teachers and administrators?**

1. It will enhance the ability to participate in data-driven decision making
2. It will result in better communication with parents
  - Report cards
  - Attendance
  - Homework
  - Parent to teacher communication
3. Children's portfolios can be documented online
4. Technology programs provide extensive reporting – info that was previously unable to capture
5. It's a different approach for the teacher
6. Presents a greater funding need for equipment and maintenance
7. Could make positions obsolete

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8. Could result in “virtual classrooms” for High School and Middle Schools
9. Assessments provide immediate feedback
10. Increases concern for lack of:
  - Grammar
  - Spelling
  - Readability
  - Calculations
11. How does technology fit into an Early Childhood classroom? When is it developmentally appropriate? Concerns for oral language development and balance.