A road map for our journey today

- Reflect on our 21st century digital distractions
- Define “Digital Media Literacy” for adults
- Connect the dots between child development, early learning and children’s media
- Identify what we know and what matters most
- Describe why children and families need mindful media mentors
- Begin and end with relationships
When we’re “left to our own devices”

When we’re “left to our own devices”

A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte, 1884, Georges Seurat

We are media role models

“Adults behaving badly” – adult media use, misuse, over use, digital distractions, always on tech and background TV...

- We’re all guilty of checking our devices too often
- Screen Time: Adults need to lead by example
- Parents Are Digital Hypocrites: Adults think they’re setting limits but inadvertently teach kids to overuse gadgets

erikson
TEC Center
How are we doing as media role models?

- Digitally dependent?
- Digitally distracted?
- Digitally preoccupied?
- Digital disconnected?
- Digital pacifier?
- Do we practice what we preach...Preach what we practice?

Connecting the dots...or connecting to tech?

A Provocation...

*The more you connect the less you connect*

Images credits: Oglivy (for the Center For Psychological Research, Shenyang)
How do we connect when we connect?

Our digital media literacy matters

- Attitudes
- Knowledge
- Experience
- Competencies
- Leading to fluency
- Resulting in intentional and appropriate selection and use
- DML is essential for adults who work with, or on behalf of, young children, parents and families
Media literacy for digital age children

Media literacy is about helping children develop the life skills they need to become thinkers and makers in the multimedia environment that is their reality...

It is precisely because our culture surrounds us with media that we need to model healthy and productive ways to integrate digital media technologies into our lives.  

Faith Rogow

Follow Fred’s lead...Embrace today’s technology to nurture young children

I went into television because I hated it so, and I thought there was some way of using this fabulous instrument to be of nurture to those who would watch and listen.
Connecting the dots

- NAEYC & Fred Rogers Center joint position statement Technology and Interactive Media as Tools in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth through Age 8
- ECS Technology in Early Childhood
- RAND Corporation Bridging the Digital Divide reports
- Zero to Three Setting the Record Straight
- HighScope Using Technology Appropriately in the Preschool Classroom
- OPRE Uses of Technology to Support Early Childhood Practice 2015
- TEC Center Technology and Digital Media in the Early Years: Tools for Teaching and Learning

When used intentionally and appropriately, technology and interactive media are effective tools to support learning and development. NAEYC & Fred Rogers Center, 2012

Connecting the dots

Pediatricians, American Academy of Pediatrics debate toddlers and technology

- Sleep Duration, Restfulness, and Screens in the Sleep Environment, Falbe et al
- Apps can be good for kids, pediatricians warming to mobile, Dr. Eli Sprecher
- Yes, Your Toddler Can Watch TV: The New Rules on Screen Time, Dr. Russell Sanders
- A family doctor’s rules for toddlers and screen time, Dr. Richard Saint Cyr
- Moving From Child Advocacy to Evidence-Based Care for Digital Natives, Dr. Michael Rich

All media are educational. What differs is what they teach and how well they teach it.

- Interactive Media Use at Younger Than the Age of 2 Years: Time to Rethink the American Academy of Pediatrics Guidelines? Dr. Dimitri Christakis

All media is educational – so we need to be aware of what children are being educated about. …Media is very much a part of our lives. The real research agenda is to find out how to use it in healthy ways.
HOT OFF THE (Virtual) PRESS!

From the AAP this week...

• *Children And Media – Tips for Parents*
• *Growing Up: Digital: Media Research Symposium, October 1, 2015*
• *AAP News, Beyond ‘turn it off’: How to advise families on media use, October 2015*

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AAP News, *Beyond ‘turn it off’: How to advise families on media use*, October 2015

• Media is just another environment
• Parenting has not changed
• Role modeling is critical
• We learn from each other
• Content matters
• Curation helps
• Co-engagement helps
• Playtime is important
• Set limits
• It’ OK for your teen to be online
Connecting the dots

“Screen time” confusion from recent headlines

- Stop Talking About ‘Screen Time,’ Start Thinking About Screen Use, August 27
- I WANT MY iPAD! Are our kids getting addicted to technology? August 21
- Screen time is Making Kids Moody, Crazy and Lazy, August 18
- Why we need to separate kids from tech, August 17
- Parents Don’t Need to Worry About ‘Screen Time’ Anymore, July 30
- Is it ok for me to watch TV while I bounce my baby to sleep? July 27
- Toddler TV time may predict who gets bullied, July 17
- Study: Parking toddlers in front of TV may lead to middle school victimization, July 17
- ‘Screen Time’ For Kids Is Probably Fine, June 18

Connecting the dots

More “screen time” confusion from the headlines

- Mobile and Interactive Use by Young Children: The Good, the Bad, and the Unknown, Radesky et al, Pediatrics, December 29, 2014 / February 1, 2015
- Researchers: Using an iPad or smartphone can harm toddler’s learning and social skills, Washington Post, February 2
- iPads and Smartphones May Damage Toddler Brains
- …quickly became Tablets and Smartphones May Affect Social and Emotional Development of Toddlers, Scientists Speculate, February 2
- …and later that same day, No, Research Does Not Say That iPads and Smartphones May Damage Toddlers Brains, The Guardian, February 2
Connecting the dots

Children’s Librarians as Media Mentors

Young Children, New Media and Libraries: A Guide to Incorporating New Media into Library Collections, Services and Programs for Families and Children Ages 0-5.

A crowdsourced e-book from Little eLit

Libraries are a modern community space

• Libraries are spaces for creativity
• Libraries address educational achievement gaps by promoting early literacy
• Libraries respond to families’ and communities changing needs
• Libraries connect people to resources, inside the library and out
• Librarians are information and education brokers
Tech and professional learning

Who?
• Teacher Educators, Professional Development Providers, Trainers, Administrators, Curriculum Coordinators...everyone who prepares teachers
• State early childhood and afterschool workforce registry and professional development leaders...everyone who supports teachers

What?
• Pre-service
• In-service
• Professional development
• Continuing education
• Lifelong & lifelong learning

Technology tools to transform the workforce

Tech and professional learning

High-Quality Professional Learning is
• Intentional
• Ongoing
• Coherent
• Collaborative
• Interdisciplinary
• Tied to Practice
• Responsive
Eight elements of great professional development

1. Duration – Deep dive over time with follow-up and consolidation
2. Targeted – Relevant to needs and day-to-day experience
3. Aligned – Combination of activities to reinforce the message
4. Content – Subject knowledge & subject specific techniques

5. Activities – Familiar and novel ways to discuss, experiment, analyze and reflect
6. External input – New perspectives that challenge “how we do it here”
7. Collaboration – Stories, peer support and peer-to-peer learning
8. Instructional leadership – Leaders are actively involved in design, development and delivery and provide needed support
Tech for professional learning

You have the tools you need in your hands and you use them every day

- Smartphones
- WiFi
- Broadband Internet access
- Laptops or desktops
- Tablets
- eMail
- Text messages
- Website / apps
- Blogs and eNewsletters
- Social media
- Video chat – Skype, Webinars
- Streaming media – YouTube
- Online and blended learning
- Digital badges

4Ms for digital age educators

1. Manager
2. Mediator
3. Mentor
4. Maker
5 tips for mindful media managers

1. Be a great digital media playmate, co-explorer and enthusiastic tour guide – a more knowledgeable other
2. Do your homework – your digital media literacy matters
3. Be intentional – use DAP and guidelines to select, use, integrate, and evaluate technology tools
4. Curate content
5. Limit tech time

5 tips for mindful media mediators

1. Be tuned-in and attentive, keep it interactive, stay engaged
2. Match the tools and content to the individual child
3. Use tools to enhance and extend activities and promote pro-social behavior
4. Use tech to let children do something that they couldn't do without the technology
5. Plan ahead for off screen play
5 tips for mindful media **mentors**

1. Guide the way through joint engagement
2. Emphasize tools that encourage pro-social behaviors, interactions, relationships
3. Follow their lead – Give children choices and control
4. Help children progress from media consumers to creators
5. Promote digital media literacy for all

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5 tips for mindful media **makers**

1. Explore ways to make media so that you can model and mentor children as media creators
2. Nudge yourself from consumer >> adopter >> adapter >> creator
3. Start with familiar technology – take digital photos, videos and record audio – use open-ended storytelling apps
4. Create ‘makerspaces’ in your classroom
5. Have a play – join the maker movement
My recipe for 4M educators

- Choose only the highest quality ingredients
- Combine research, theory and developmentally appropriate practice
- Stir in opportunities for interactions and pro-social behavior
- Blend in relationships and mix in lots of joint engagement
- Fold in the 3Cs of quality media – Content, Context, Child
- Bake in your understanding of the reciprocal influence of parents, families, culture and community on children’s media use
- Top with digital media literacy for children, parents and educators
- Don’t forget the secret ingredient – being a 4M connected educator

Advice from teachers for teachers

Getting Started with Erin Stanfill and Yeliz Zurawic
Analog curators >>> digital age curation

Our analog knowledge, skills, experience and passion as educators are the foundation for digital age curation to select, use, integrate and evaluate tools and media for young children.

- Reflect on what you know about child development, early learning and early literacy
- Identify your best practices and emerging practices with digital technology and media
- Apply Developmentally Appropriate Practice
- Follow the NAEYC/FRC Joint Position Statement
- Look to Mister Rogers
We all got to be who we are today with the help of many other people. Nobody can successfully manage in the world without the investment of others.

Follow Fred’s fearless lead… Be a mindful media manager, mediator, mentor and maker

Follow Fred’s lead…
Relationships matter most

No matter how helpful computers are as tools (and of course they can be very helpful tools), they don’t begin to compare in significance to the teacher-child relationship which is human and mutual. A computer can help you learn to spell HUG, but it can never know the risk or the joy of actually giving or receiving one.