

Resources and Tips for Teachers: Connecting with Children and Families Through Technology

Simple Tech Tools

Note: to scan QR Codes, open camera app on your device and hold it up to the code, the link should automatically open.

[SafeShare.tv](https://www.safeshare.tv/)

SafeShare.tv removes advertisements and other unwanted distractions such as ads and sidebar videos on YouTube/Vimeo, so that they can be viewed safely. It will even create a QR Code for easy scanning.



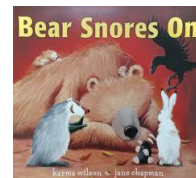
[QR Code Generator](https://www.qr-code-generator.com/)

Take any link (i.e., Storyline Online) and make it into a QR Code.

The code on the right will take you to *The Case of the Missing Carrot Cake* on Storyline Online. Teachers can include these on materials to send home so children can listen independently.

[Vocaroo](https://www.vocaroo.com/)

Record yourself reading a story or giving directions about an activity. Vocaroo will generate a [link](#) and/or a QR Code that can be embedded into a newsletter, lesson plan, packet for home, etc. You can also download the recording. Children scan the code or click on the link and listen, which can be especially helpful for directions. Children can listen to the directions as many times as needed, fostering independence. For reading stories, use the sounds/tones on your phone to include a page-turn 'beep' as you read for old school style read alongs!



[Google Forms](https://www.google.com/forms)

Do a quick check-in with families using Google Forms, the link takes you to a sample form, but you can make your own based on your perceived family needs.

[Screencastify](https://www.screencastify.com/)

Screencastify is a Chrome browser extension that records your screen, face, voice, and more. To use Screencastify, find its icon in the Chrome toolbar and choose among the recording options: record a single tab in your web browser, capture all screen activity, or use your webcam to record or insert a video of yourself.



[Use Phone as Document Camera](#)

Watch this quick video for a demonstration on how to use your phone as a document camera to model or demonstrate live and in person on Zoom! Great for Guided Drawing activities. Pick a book character and draw it together.

[Google Photo Albums](#) (Sample Album of a Nature Scavenger Hunt)

Create a shared album and add families as collaborators. Families can add photos and children can comment on each other's photos, share things they are building, creating, doing, things they find on a walk....have a scavenger hunt and add photos of what they found!

Examples of Teachers Using Technology to Support and Connect with Families

[Michelle Donahue's Classroom Videos](#): this teacher is trying to make virtual learning feel 'normal' and consistent for her students and families.

[Jill Horan's Classroom Videos](#): this teacher makes short videos that introduce an activity for the children to try at home.

Games & Activities for Zoom/Google Meets

Simon Says– Play this just like the original game! Give the action directions, while the students participate.

I Spy– Use your students' backgrounds for this game to play. Pick an item that can easily be seen by all students and share a clue. Students can raise their hand when they have a guess.

Show & Tell– Have students take turns sharing something special to them.

Art Show– Students can create their own piece of artwork (or two) and share with their classmates!

Snack & Chat– If your students just want to chat and socialize, encourage them to join you for a virtual lunch or snack time.

Scavenger Hunts– You can play this game live, or send your students off to do this overnight. You can look for particular shapes, colors, items that are a certain length, or items that start with a particular sound.

Field Trip Friday– Teachers all over the country are taking their students on [virtual field trips](#). Use the share-screen feature to share a virtual location with your students. You can visit zoos, aquariums, museums, national parks, or even theme parks.

Flashlight Friday– Have your students build a fort and grab a flashlight! They can get comfy and listen to you read a story during Flashlight Friday.

*Jean Barresi - Education Specialist
Sandy Fowler - Education Specialist
Julie Giaccone - Early Childhood Coordinator*