

EDTECH'S 10 BEST PRACTICES

What follows is a comprehensive list of the practices educators can adopt as a way to align their technology use in the classroom with the research on EdTech, child development, and teaching and learning. These practices have the power to create happier, healthier, and smarter school communities.

1. EMBRACE PRINTED TEXTS

Choose printed texts over digital texts when possible to increase comprehension, retention, and test scores. Research also shows that students who read printed texts often enjoy reading more.

2. EMBRACE HANDWRITING

When possible, encourage students to handwrite notes and assignments in order to boost creativity, retention, and test scores.

3. EMBRACE TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Use technology most often when it produces a unique outcome or develops a high-level skill, such as with robotics, website design, or advanced photo, music, or video editing.

4. LIMIT GAMIFIED APPS & PLATFORMS

Gamification can overstimulate, distract, and demotivate students to learn for its own sake.

5. LIMIT DIGITAL WORKSHEETS

Limit digital worksheets or other uses of screens that can be easily replicated with a traditional teaching method in order to cut down on unnecessary screen time.

6. DON'T USE SCREEN TIME FOR BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

Using screen time as a reward or to fill downtime during the school day can lead to unnecessary distractions and habitual use, and can impede opportunities for social and emotional growth.

7. DON'T USE SOCIAL MEDIA AS A TEACHING OR COMMUNICATION TOOL

Support students' mental health and focus by abstaining from using social media as a tool for classroom assignments or as a communication platform for school sports, etc.

8. GO PHONE-FREE

Support students' mental health and focus by using lockable pouches, a locker stow-away policy, or other method to remove cell phones from the start to the end of the school day.

9. PROTECT EARLY LEARNERS FROM TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME

Track and limit screen time for elementary students especially, as excessive screen time in this age group has been linked to decreased language acquisition and motor skill development.

10. CREATE A DISTRICT TECH PLAN

Create a plan that includes, among other things, a purpose statement, classroom implementation model such as The EdTech Triangle, and an acceptable use policy for student devices.

