

then share their memories by writing or dictating captions, making drawings, or recording stories. The final projects can be viewed both on-screen and as a book.

★ Make an electronic slideshow of a class book. Each child composes a page with an illustration and a written or recorded sentence that supports the curriculum under study.

### ★ Benefits

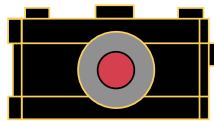
★ Looking at the photos reinforces the learning and allows children to revisit the activity. They frequently choose to revise or add to their initial comments.

★ Dictating their words helps children develop an understanding of how spoken language connects to print.

★ The technology allows children to respond and represent learning in individual ways, and provides a window on their thinking.

## #5 share & document learning

★ Chronicle learning in progress with digital photos of skits, art or science projects, or geometric patterns or models that children construct.



★ Take family portraits at the school's Open House to display and later send home—the photos offer children and families a starting point for conversations, building vocabulary and developing oral language skills in the home language.

### ★ Benefits

★ Strong first language skills support the acquisition of a second language for English language learners.

★ Students can use a digital camera and see immediate results. Photographs can also be downloaded and printed out.

★ Publishing projects expands the concept of audience to a wider sphere, including peers, schoolmates, parents, and the larger community.

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Samples of work created with these tools can be used to share with other students, parents, and the community, and as a record of a child's accomplishments. For more ideas visit: [www.netc.org/earlyconnections/](http://www.netc.org/earlyconnections/)

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**effective  
ways for  
young  
children  
to use  
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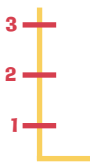
**T**echnology can enhance classroom learning for children in preschool through primary grades. The five examples illustrate some of the ways that children can use these tools.

Further information on using technology with young children is available online at the Early Connections Web site—

[www.netc.org/earlyconnections/](http://www.netc.org/earlyconnections/)

## #1 make & display a graph

★ Build a physical graph with objects, such as shoes with and without laces, or boxes from favorite breakfast cereals. Then use a graphing program or spreadsheet on the computer to make the same information into a two-dimensional graph.



★ Collect information that has meaning to kids—favorite colors, the number of pockets on their clothes, or how they traveled to school that day. Use magnets, personalized with children's pictures or names, to add data to a graph on the chalkboard or white board. Transform the data into a bar graph, pie chart, or pictograph on the computer for another type of display.

### ★ Benefits

★ Children learn through experience that collecting and organizing information allows them to ask and answer questions.

★ Visual representations of data help children to understand information in a new way.

★ Moving from graphing with physical objects to two-dimensional displays of information helps children with the transition from concrete to abstract understanding.

## #2 explore with digital tools

★ Investigate the familiar world from new perspectives. Close-up photos and magnified images from a digital microscope or camera engage children's curiosity and encourage them to take a closer look at common objects transformed through magnification.



★ Photograph buildings or scenes and tape-record sounds during a walk through the community. Children can then refer to the images and sounds in the classroom as they explore and build their own constructions.

### ★ Benefits

★ Experiential learning encourages student involvement, enhances understanding, and is effective with a wide range of learners, including English language learners.

★ Oral language skills are the basis for literacy. Hands-on activities create opportunities for conversation and learning new vocabulary in context as children talk while they work.

## #3 tell a story in pictures & words

★ Create illustrations on-screen with art software, or paint or draw pictures to scan into the computer. Software that lets children combine pictures with their recorded voices telling the stories, or that uses computerized voices to read back typed stories, adds to the fun and celebrates children's creativity.



★ Create a book—alone or as a group—and tape-record reading it aloud. Children will want to read the book fluently and with expression because they wrote it!

### ★ Benefits

★ Story telling and story reading provide a strong foundation for language. Children love to see and hear these stories played back, which supports developing skills.

★ Reading and writing are more effectively taught in combination, and provide greater benefits than when they are taught separately.

## #4 write, record, and revisit

★ Put together a digital record of a special activity or field trip. Children can return to the experience by viewing digital photographs,

