

**ICT guidelines**

- 1 Technology has become an important part of our everyday lives,
- 2 even extending to activities in preschool centers.
- 3 To support preschool teachers, the Ministry of Education has developed the Teaching and Learning Guidelines on the use of Information and Communication Technology in preschool centers.
- 4 “You hold on to the tablet.”
- 5 Technology should only be used if it enhances learning experiences.
- 6 And, when used, teachers should take into consideration these three Guiding Principles.
- 7 [Guiding Principle 1] The use of ICT should complement children’s learning experiences and be developmentally appropriate.
- 8 “Tell me, what are the sea creatures that you are going to make?”
- 9 “A thin shark.”
- 10 “At the beach?”
- 11 “Yeah.”
- 12 Children learn best when they are engaged in hands-on activities with quality interactions.
- 13 When preparing for a stop-motion video, the children are still very much engaged in the hands-on activities such as molding the characters and painting the backdrops.
- 14 “Okay. Take one out.”
- 15 “Pause and freeze.”
- 16 “What do you think this is called?”
- 17 “Animation.”
- 18 “Story and movie.”
- 19 Stop-motion nurtures students’ learning, teamwork and communication skills.
- 20 It also fosters their learning dispositions, such as their sense of wonder.
- 21 “I like animation because I can take pictures with my friends.”
- 22 “There are a lot of fun activities. We can click the button, then we can move it.”
- 23 “You move a little bit and take a picture, move a little bit and take a picture, and you move a bit and take a picture.”
- 24 “Take a picture!”
- 25 “I’m ready!”
- 26 [Guiding Principle 2] The use of ICT should be facilitated and guided by teachers.
- 27 “How many buses are there here?”
- 28 “Three and four, five, six, seven, eight, nine.”
- 29 As an early childhood educator, it is important to facilitate and guide the children’s use of technology in the classroom, to encourage children to construct knowledge and make sense of the world around them.
- 30 “Do you have your three buses?”
- 31 “Okay, so what’s next?”
- 32 I facilitate the children’s use of technology in the classroom by observing their learning.
- 33 I will also provide hints when they encounter difficulties and I’ll also scaffold their thinking through open-ended questions.
- 34 “I have three buses.”
- 35 “I have nine aeroplanes.”
- 36 “I want you to hear it.”
- 37 “I cannot hear.”
- 38 “So what do you think about the recording?”
- 39 “Not nice.”
- 40 “So what can we do about it?”
- 41 “Put louder!”
- 42 “I have four buses.”
- 43 “How many are there altogether?”
- 44 As there may be safety concerns involving in the use of technology in the classroom, I will guide the children using instructions.
- 45 [Guiding Principle 3] The use of ICT should be carefully considered to ensure the safety and well-being of children.
- 46 ICT should not be used as a babysitting tool for young children.
- 47 The teacher’s role should be one of facilitation and engaging in quality interactions.
- 48 The excessive use of ICT can be harmful to children.
- 49 Therefore, it is important for us to plan for a range of experiences, such as working together in small teams and participating in activities, that combines the use of technology with exploration of concrete materials.

- 50** Ultimately, ICT is neither good nor bad: it depends on how it is used.
- 51** Teachers play a vital role in using ICT appropriately and purposefully.
- 52** The Guidelines is a useful resource for preschool educators on how to use technology in teaching and learning meaningfully and appropriately.
- 53** So download your copy of the Guidelines from the NEL portal and let's give every child a strong start in life.