



Ideas and Strategies for Incorporating the DEC Recommended Practices In Educational Technology

The 2014 DEC Recommended Family Practices¹ highlight the importance of activities that “promote the active participation of families in decision-making related to their child (e.g., assessment, planning, intervention).” Specific examples of family practices include the following:

- F1. Practitioners build trusting and respectful partnerships with the family through interactions that are sensitive and responsive to cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic diversity.
- F2. Practitioners provide the family with up-to-date, comprehensive and unbiased information in a way that the family can understand and use to make informed choices and decisions.

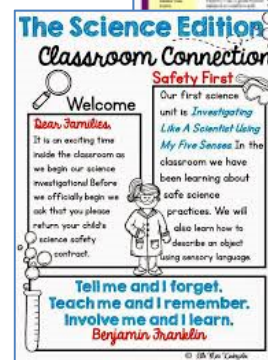
Here’s an example of how to integrate an emphasis on technology with the DEC Recommended Family Practices.

RE-CONCEPTUALIZING THE FAMILY NEWSLETTER ASSIGNMENT

1. Ask students to identify a group of families to work with for the duration of the quarter/semester (e.g., the families in a particular classroom, program, or organization).
2. Ask students to survey those families to learn about the following:
 - What are topics related to early childhood learning and development about which the families would like more information?
 - In what ways do the families prefer to receive information (e.g., phone messages, text messages, email messages, etc.)?

To gather this information, encourage students to use different forms of technology, e.g., develop an online survey, send out text messages, etc. Make sure that students take into account aspects of family diversity like preferred language.

3. Using what has been learned from the survey, ask students to develop and share a newsletter that addresses areas of family interest. The newsletter should be delivered using the technology methods prioritized by the families.
4. Before sending out the newsletter, identify a mechanism for getting feedback on the newsletter. Ask for input in categories that include content, usefulness, quality, and appearance.



¹ Find the DEC Recommended Practices online at

<http://dec.membershipsoftware.org/files/Recommended%20Practices/DEC%202014%20Recommended%20Practices.pdf>