TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Purpose: Classroom staff will intentionally design developmentally appropriate experiences and provide technological materials to supplement and enhance active learning experiences. Technological manipulatives will be utilized in order to expose young children (birth to preschool) to developmentally appropriate experiences and tools in order to prepare children for Kindergarten according to established School Readiness goals, Head Start Child Development & Early Learning Framework (revised 2015), adopted technology outcomes indicators, and consistent with school district expectations and standards. Integration of technology will align with Head Start Performance Standards 1302 Subpart C and focus on skill development rather than technology itself. Staff will utilize current research in order to guide their implementation of high-quality curriculum and materials in order to develop proficiency skills in and knowledge of technology while emphasizing and scaffolding active learning, communication, exploration, and problem-solving strategies and skills across other domains of child development according to each child's needs. Staff will ensure that parents are informed of technology integrated into daily planning and curriculum implementation along with established School Readiness goals.

Strategies:

1. Education staff will be provided initial and ongoing training regarding effective and developmentally appropriate implementation of technology into the regular early childhood curriculum.

2. Education staff will assess children according to adopted technology outcomes indicators (listed below) three times per year. Data will be analyzed to provide appropriate curriculum and experiences for individual children and will also help determine needed training and materials for education staff individually or collectively.

3. UMCHS will provide children will a variety of high-quality technology opportunities that are developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant and that encourage interaction, exploration, and curiosity in the learning environment. Currently these include: iPads, computers, GPS, digital photo frames, digital cameras. Staff will ensure that materials and programs utilized are for the sole purpose of enhancing children's education and development and will not include things such as advertisements or brand promotions.

4. UMCHS will utilize state and national standards and current research to guide technology integration practices and standards.

5. Education staff and supervisors will ensure that technology integration into the regular classroom curriculum provides children with interactive the opportunity to engage in meaningful experiences and opportunities rather than passive exposure.
6. Technology will be integrated into classroom experiences to foster development in: creativity, collaboration and communication, information fluency, critical thinking and

problem-solving, digital citizenship, and technology operation and concepts and will not be used in such a way that communication, social interactions, and play are supplanted.

7. UMCHS will ensure that all children served will have access to a variety of culturally relevant and developmentally appropriate technology tools and devices.

8. According to current research, screen time with technology (such as computers and iPads) will be limited to no more than 20 minutes per child, per day. Based on current research, children under age 2 will not be exposed to screen time activities. The use of technology with toddlers will be used sparingly and according to developmentally appropriate practices.

9. Education staff will integrate technology into their regular classroom environment and lesson planning and will also develop individualized goals for children that relate to adopted technology standards. Experiences with technology shall be one of the available experiences at any given time during the classroom day.

10. The use of technology during the classroom daily activities will be for the purposes of enhancing children's development and skills. Staff will not utilize technology for their own personal uses during this time.

TECHNOLOGY LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR PRESCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

1. Children explore and use various types of technology tools to collect and analyze information
2. Children work cooperatively with others while using technology tools
3. Children demonstrate responsible handling of technology equipment
4. Children utilize technology to create original works as a means of expression
5. Children select and apply appropriate technology based on the specific task
6. Children utilize technology to extend their understanding of existing or new concepts across domains of development
7. Children will demonstrate basic knowledge of technology devices, their components, and their functions