

Tiegerman Early Childhood Technology and Screen-Time Policy

Tiegerman uses technology thoughtfully and appropriately to support learning, communication, and student development. Technology is one of many instructional tools in the early childhood program and does not replace hands-on learning, play, movement, social interaction, or direct teacher instruction. Teachers use technology purposefully, aligned with students' ages and individual needs, for educational and developmental purposes. Teachers actively supervise and guide technology use, and students may use Tiegerman-approved interactive boards, tablets, computers, digital books, applications, and other educational tools when appropriate.

Screen time is limited, purposeful, and aligned with instruction. Tiegerman does not use technology for passive entertainment or merely to occupy or distract children. Technology activities should promote active participation, communication, problem-solving, creativity, and interaction with teachers and peers. The program avoids extended or unnecessary screen time and provides frequent opportunities for hands-on learning, movement, outdoor play, social interaction, imaginative play, and other screen-free activities. When technology is used, the program prioritizes teacher-led, interactive, and shared experiences.

Tiegerman follows New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) preschool and early childhood guidelines, which prohibit 1:1 screen time for students in grades 2K–2. As a result, students do not use individual tablets or computers for direct screen-based activities. Teacher-led technology use remains permitted for whole- or small-group instruction, including interactive smart boards and other shared displays. Tiegerman prioritizes shared, teacher-directed technology experiences, such as interactive smart board lessons, as the primary means of technology exposure for students in programs subject to NYCPS requirements. Exceptions may apply when technology is required to support a student's accessibility, communication, assistive technology, or IEP needs.

Students may access only Tiegerman-approved technology, websites, applications, and digital resources. Teachers supervise students while using internet-enabled devices, and Tiegerman protects student information and complies with applicable privacy and confidentiality requirements. Students receive age-appropriate guidance on safe and responsible technology use. Technology may also support communication, accessibility, assistive technology, and other identified educational needs.

Tiegerman will review and update its technology and screen-time practices as applicable, in response to revisions to OCFS, NYCPS, and other governing requirements.