

WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT ABOUT...

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION?

Technology is a part of our everyday life. It effects our environment, our standard of living, our quality of life, and plays an increasingly important role in the functioning of our society. As the world develops, it is important for our children to have a broad technological literacy that enables them to understand how technology impacts on society, the economy and the environment.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION is a great way to develop your child's technological literacy and competence in using existing technologies and creating solutions to technological problems. Technology teaches a broad technological literacy which gives students the skills and knowledge they need for all kinds of work and university study. It contributes to the intellectual and practical development of your children as individuals and as informed members of a technological society.

In Technology education, your child will be involved in project-based activities where they can integrate their knowledge and skills from many learning areas in real and practical ways. They learn to be creative and innovative in generating ideas, and to translate their ideas into actions that most often result in technological products.

Children who study Technology also become more aware of their responsibilities within their families and society. They gain confidence in their

ability to contribute to informed decision-making about which technologies they can and should interact. They learn how to contribute to the development of technologies through making decisions, taking calculated risks, evaluating their own choices, and developing ways of addressing real problems.

Technology education also encourages children to become culturally and environmentally aware and appreciate the impacts that technological changes have on different cultures and environments. They learn to appraise the appropriateness of technological solutions to environmental problems and develop an understanding of different beliefs, values, and traditions and how these influence technological development.

Technology education equips children with skills, knowledge, and competencies that allow them to pursue many work and leisure related activities and to contribute to New Zealand's social and economic development. They are given opportunities for interactions with business and industry that help them to understand and adapt to a rapidly changing world and to take a confident part in shaping the future.

To find out more about the benefits of Technology education and the wide range of Technology subjects available at school, visit www.techlink.org.nz.

Five questions to ask your child's school about Technology education

1 What is my child being taught in Technology education?

The knowledge and skills to be confident in using a variety of ways to address needs and opportunities and to solve practical problems. Technology focuses on know-how as well as knowledge itself, gathering information from diverse sources.

2 What concepts in Technology is my child being exposed to?

Technology education explores choices and the factors that influence choice, including culture and society, costs and benefits, aesthetics, and fitness for purpose. It seeks to empower students to make informed choices in the use of technology and their responses to technological change.

3 How is my child's technological literacy being developed?

Technology education helps students achieve technological literacy through:

- **Technological Practice** – students examine current practice and undertake their own, developing a range of outcomes, including concepts, plans, briefs, technological models and products or systems.
- **Technological Knowledge** – students gain knowledge particular to technological enterprises and environments and find out why and how things work.
- **Nature of Technology** – students develop an understanding of Technology as a discipline and how it differs from others.

4 Is my child getting the right skills and knowledge needed for future study and employment?

Technology education equips your child with an enterprising and innovative attitude and skills and knowledge foundational in a range of careers and tertiary study options. It is recognised as a useful pre-requisite for a variety of tertiary studies and careers such as engineering, design, architecture, food science, biotechnology and ICT.

5 What can I do to support my child's learning in Technology?

Take an interest in what your child is learning in Technology at school by asking them questions about it. Talk to their teachers about how you can contribute to their Technology education. This may be through providing them with real authentic problems to solve or supporting them or their teachers by providing them access to the expert technological knowledge and skill that you have.



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