

## A Call for a Meaningful Technology Literacy

Our children face a daunting technological frontier of irreversible changes in human biology and the world's ecology. They need a radically different kind of technology education to make wise choices in such a future.

Alliance for Childhood proposes a new definition of technology literacy:

***The mature capacity to participate creatively, critically, and responsibly in making technological choices that serve democracy, ecological sustainability, and a just society.***

We call on parents, educators, and policymakers to make seven key reforms to foster a new approach to technology literacy:

1. Make human relationships and a commitment to strong communities a top priority at home and at school.
2. Color childhood green to refocus education on children's relationships with the rest of the living world.
3. Foster creativity every day, with time for the arts and play.
4. Put community-based research and action at the heart of the science and technology curriculum.
5. Declare one day a week an electronic entertainment-free zone.
6. End marketing aimed at children.
7. Shift spending from unproven high-tech products in the classroom to children's unmet basic needs.

*How do we prepare today's children to make wise decisions about tomorrow's technologies? It is certain that they will be faced with moral and ethical questions about the development and use of technology that no society has ever faced before.*

*How will we answer the call?*