



WELCOME PACKET

Home Visiting



Funded by the OEC through the Governor's Education Emergency Relief Fund in partnership with NEAT and the RESC Alliance.



Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood



Governor's Education
Emergency Relief



INTRODUCTION



Welcome Families!

During this challenging time in the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been difficult for many families to maintain connections with their child's early learning program. This challenge has been especially true for families who need to keep their child home for health and safety concerns, and who may have limited access to technology. The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is able to provide technology support to families with young children who are in need and deserving of support.

These funds come from \$3 billion dollars Congress set aside for the Education Stabilization Fund through the CARES Act. Connecticut received \$27.8 million dollars, of which the Office of the Governor

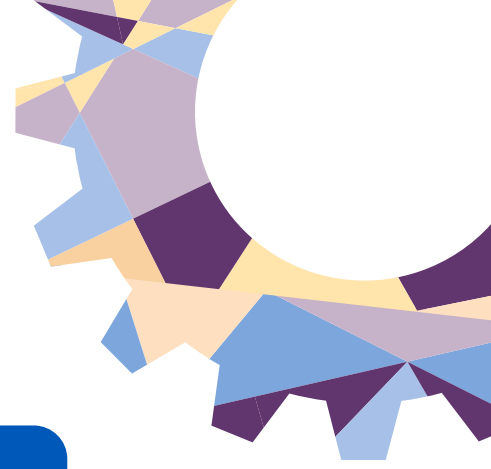
awarded OEC

\$4 million dollars.

The OEC is fortunate to have support from the community with this effort. OEC is partnering with the Regional Educational Service Centers Alliance (RESC) and New England Assistive Technology (NEAT) to help distribute iPads, and provide technical support and learning for children and families.



GUIDELINES



We look forward to assisting your family during this difficult time, and hope that the services and technology we provide will help your family grow and flourish.

In order to assure the best possible outcomes for your family, there are several guidelines we ask you to follow listed below. If you have any questions, please contact your provider.

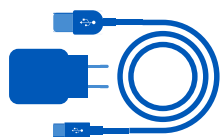
1. **Getting Started with the iPad**
2. **iPad Care**
3. **Internet Safety**
4. **Returning iPad**
5. **Resources**

 **OEC Website**

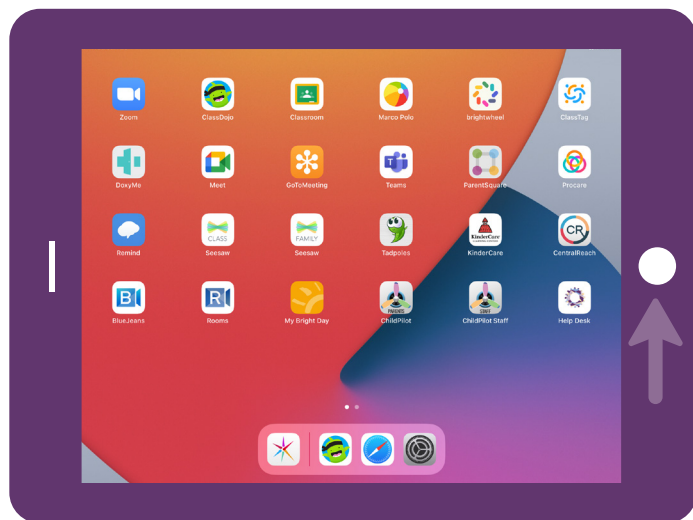
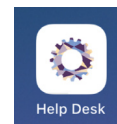
 **Sparkler App**



GETTING STARTED



- ⚙️ You will receive an iPad with a case and screen protector on it, charger and adapter.
- ⚙️ Your iPad may or may not come charged, so please hook it up to the charger when you receive it.
- ⚙️ Be careful to keep the charger with the iPad or in a specific location to avoid misplacing it.
- ⚙️ This iPad is supervised and managed by EASTCONN (part of the RESC Alliance).
- ⚙️ Some functions of the iPad will not be able to be used.
- ⚙️ If needing Technical Support, click on the Help Desk App icon that looks like this on the iPads; or call **860-407-6789** between 9am - 4pm for assistance.



When you first receive the iPad, the home screen will look similar to this after pressing the home button.

Some apps may not apply to you, so check with your program for which ones are for you.



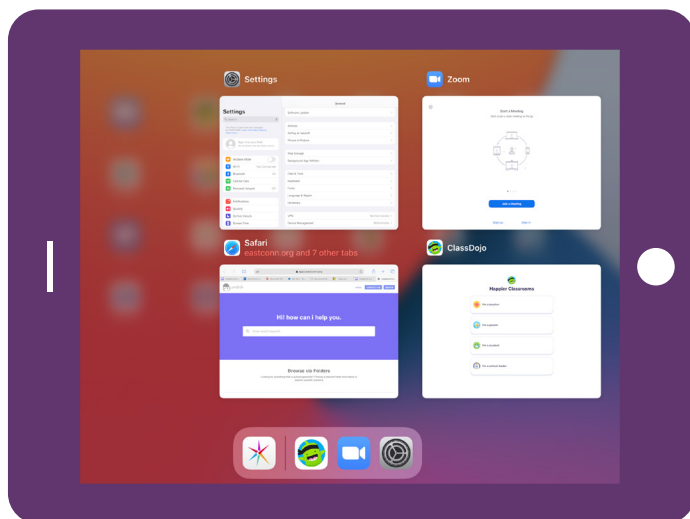
GETTING STARTED



When you want to quickly access the settings for sound, camera, brightness, WIFI, Bluetooth, etc., slide down the top right corner of the iPad and you will see this:



To access the full settings, click on the Settings application located on the home screen in the bottom bar.



To close out open apps and windows, double click on the home button on the bottom of the iPad, then swipe up each open app or window to close it out.






IPAD CARE



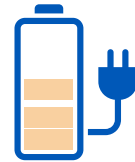
Care of Your iPad

Store the iPad in the case provided, and in a safe and secure location.

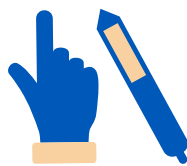
-  Protect the iPad as you would your purse or wallet.
-  Don't leave your iPad in a car.
-  Don't leave the iPad unattended in a public space.



Protect your iPad from liquids and extreme temperatures.



When charging, make sure the charging cord isn't a tripping hazard.



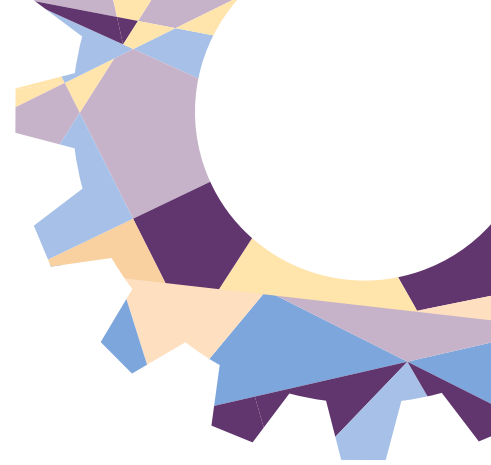
Only use your fingers or a special stylus (pointer) on the screen.



Report a lost or stolen iPad immediately by calling your Home Visiting Coordinator.



INTERNET SAFETY



Internet Safety

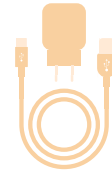
- ⚙ Always supervise children while they browse the internet.
- ⚙ Always keep your passwords secure.
- ⚙ Only allow family members to use the iPad.
- ⚙ Only connect the iPad to familiar wireless networks.
 - ⚙ Avoid using your iPad in a public space, such as a fast food restaurant.
 - ⚙ Using your public library should be safe.
- ⚙ Only communicate online with people you can identify.
 - ⚙ Never open attachments without trusting the sender.
- ⚙ Internet content provided by the cellular service is filtered for the protection of your children.
- ⚙ Internet content provided by home or commercial Wi-Fi networks may not be filtered.
- ⚙ Always remain careful about sharing your personal information. Learn how to recognize and protect yourself from phishing (the tricks that are used to steal information and more) here, <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>



RETURNING IPAD

Return of Your iPad

- ⚙️ Save the box you received the iPad in.
- ⚙️ When asked to return the iPad, make sure you include:
 - ⚙️ The iPad
 - ⚙️ The case
 - ⚙️ The charging cord
 - ⚙️ The charging adapter
- ⚙️ Ask for a receipt from the person who accepts the returned iPad.



Important iPad Guidelines

- ⚙️ Use of the iPad should be limited to specified program activities.
- ⚙️ You are expected to take good care of this resource, but you will not be held financially responsible for a broken, lost, or stolen iPad.
 - ⚙️ **However**, you are responsible to report broken, lost, or stolen iPads as soon as you can by calling your Home Visiting Coordinator.
- ⚙️ Your Home Visiting program may not be able to replace a broken, lost, or stolen iPad.



RESOURCES



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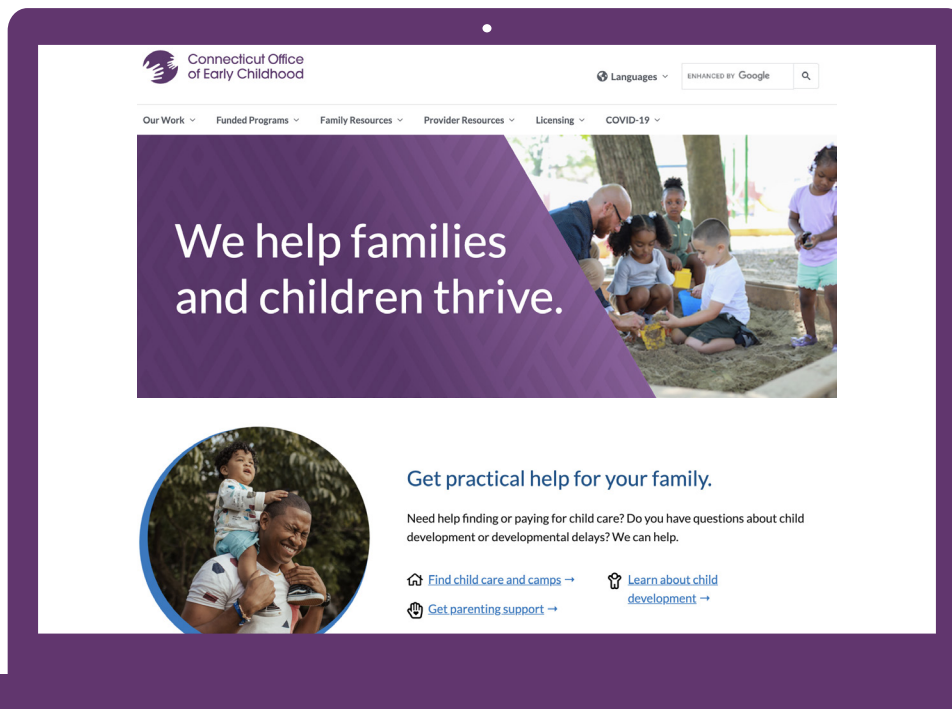


OEC WEBSITE

OEC Resources for Families

We know this is a challenging time for families. Here are some resources that might help:

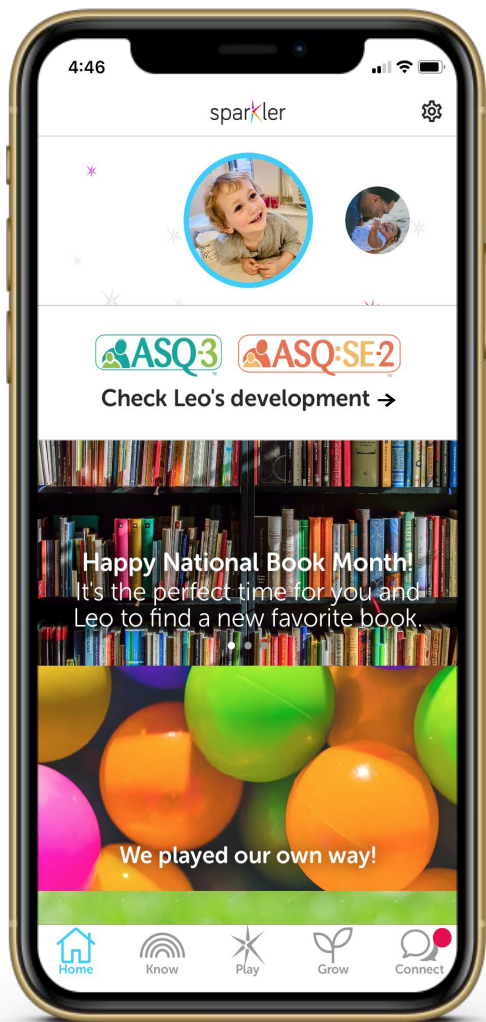
- ⚙️ **Finding Support** – Includes tips on dealing with stress, resources for financial and food assistance, and taking care of yourself
- ⚙️ **Supporting Your Child at Home** – Get ideas on supporting your child’s learning and development
- ⚙️ **Child Care During COVID-19** – Find out how child care programs are keeping children safe and how to get your child to wear a mask correctly
- ⚙️ **Child Care Near You** – Call 2-1-1 or visit 211childcare.org to find out about the child care options in your area
- ⚙️ **Home Visiting** – Learn about all of the home visiting programs offered in Connecticut





Learn through play with sparkler

Sparkler sparks healthy early development for children (0-5) and families in Connecticut. Check in on your child's development and get a library of 1000+ play activities just right for your child's age. Get regular coaching and advice — right on your new iPad. Sparkler is in English and Spanish, for iOS or Android.



Use your existing account or register and create a new account:

1. Tap “Create a New Account” In Sparkler
2. Enter Sparkler Access Code for Home Visiting:

1 7 8 8

3. Enter your name and email to create your account
4. Create your password
5. Enter your phone number, address, ZIP (optional)
6. Choose Your Group in the drop-down menu:

Ask your home visitor

7. Review “Sponsoring Partners” and Privacy
8. Create a profile for your child: name, preferred pronoun, birth date, and photo (optional)
9. Enter your Provider Key to link with your home visitor:

Ask your home visitor



How to Use sparkler With Your Child

Know



- **Screen:** Tap Ages & Stages Questionnaires® & fill out the ASQ to celebrate milestones.
- **Results:** Submit and get results from your home visitor or 211 Child Development (United Way of CT).

Play



- **Play to Learn:** Young children learn through play with YOU! Sparkler has a 1,000+ playful, standards-based activities to help you and your child learn together.
- **Develop Skills:** Build heart, mind, body, and words.

Grow



- **Track Accomplishments:** Track what you read, learn, and play in Grow, Sparkler's scrapbook.
- **Share:** Share with your home visitor to keep track of goals/progress.

Connect



- **Coaching:** Get advice from Sparkler and your home visitor.
- **Q&A:** Sparkler offers two-way communication that links families with the systems that support them.

Questions? Please ask your provider or email support@playsparkler.org