



TECHNOLOGY PROP BOX

Materials you need:

- A collection of items that we associate with technology – try to get a mix of old and new. Think about keyboards, lights, computer screens, phones – landline and mobile.
- Ask families for help adding to your collection and make sure to scour the op shops and markets.
- Real tools like screwdrivers, wrenches, Allen keys, wood glue, pliers.
- A table or stable surface indoors or out, magnifying glasses.
- Something to use as a cash register and money.

Setup for play:

- Set up all the items on a table covered with plastic or vinyl. Keep a few items aside to hand out to the 'customers'.
- Ask the children to design signs to hang for their 'repair shop'.
- Assign some children to first work in the shop using tools to repair and invent using some of the technology items and another group to come to the shop with a task or repair for the workers.
- Help the second group to brainstorm some questions that might solve some real problems that have been identified in the care area. For example – "can you make something for me to stop that leak?" Can you fix the typewriter?
- Swap around roles and help the children to pull apart some of the items to 'fix'. Run it like a real shop taking bookings and using the cash register.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children use props from the technology box they are learning to:

- Use their imagination to explore real life events
- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators
- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- Engage with technology for fun and to communicate learning
- Work together in a group with others
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Express their ideas creatively to help make meaning
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Use their play to imagine and explore ideas
- Negotiate roles, responsibilities and relationships
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and hands on investigation

Extending the play:

- Research and find information online re inventions and ideas that have moved us forward with technology over the years.
- Arrange different shaped and sized magnets on tin cans to create robots and other inventions.

