Introducing the PEEP Sounds app to your staff

PEEP Family Science is flexible and can be adapted to the needs of a variety of programs that support young families’ learning. This brief guide suggests how you might put together a meeting or orientation session for educators and other staff members about PEEP Family Science: Sounds.

Checklist of resources on the science of sounds:

☐ The PEEP website
  peepandthebigwideworld.com/peepfamilyscience

☐ The PEEP Sounds app

Suggestions for a Staff Meeting

Before the Meeting

1. Give staff members the URL for the PEEP Family Science website. Ask them to:
   • visit the website and watch the video, What is PEEP Family Science?
   • download the PEEP Sounds app to their own smartphone or tablet.

2. For each staff member, print out a copy of the Sounds Educator Guide to distribute at the meeting.

At the Meeting

1. Watch the Educator Video: Getting Started
   • Download the video from the PEEP website ahead of time and play it at the meeting. Then ask some of these questions to get a discussion going:
   • What did you notice about the way the educator helped the mom get comfortable with science?
• What do you think was helpful about the educator and mom watching the parent video together? Can you see yourself doing this?

• What kind of feedback did the educator give the mom when they did the activity together? What kind of feedback do you think your parents might need?

• Would it be helpful to check in with parents after a week of PEEP activities? What would you ask parents about?

• What kinds of challenges did the mom say she had doing science? What suggestions did the educator offer? Do you have any other ideas about how to handle those challenges?

• Let’s talk about any other questions you have about getting parent ready to do PEEP Family Science.

2. Review the Sounds Educator Guide

• Go through each page of the Sounds Educator Guide together. Each week of the four-week Sounds app is discussed.

• Point out that it’s ideal if educators can:
  • model one activity with parents each week
  • watch a parent video together and discuss

• The Guide includes a section on Using Educational Media with Children. The PEEP videos, games, and apps follow best practices for using media with children ages 3 to 5. If this is the first time your program is encouraging families to use media to help educate children, you may want to review this section in detail with educators. Well-designed educational media (videos, online games, apps, and TV shows) can help children learn—and if they are guided by an adult, children can learn even more!

3. Practice using the app together

• Make sure everyone can navigate through the app. A good exercise is to have staff members go through each screen for a given day. For each day in the app there is:
  • a kid video to watch and discuss, and
  • a hands-on activity to do.

• Have them practice getting back to the home page as well as moving to another week of activities.

• Discuss how educators might help parents download the app using Wi-Fi. (Note: downloading should take only a few minutes, even with normal or slow Internet connections.)

• Remind educators that once the app is downloaded, families no longer need an Internet connection or their phone’s data plan to use it. The app can now be used offline anywhere.
4. Preview the Two Parent Videos

There are two parent videos in the app. Play the Parent Video: Sounds Week 1 from the website, or have small groups watch it on the app. It shows a mom and her child doing the Week 1 activities together.

- It’s recommended that educators watch the parent videos with parents and ask the video-viewing questions that are included in the Educator Guide.
- You might have the group turn to Week 1 of the Educator Guide and role-play asking the video-viewing questions.
- If there’s time, play Parent Video: Sounds Week 3 for the group, and point out video-viewing questions in the Guide.

After the Meeting

You may want to arrange a way to check back in with educators to find out what questions they have, now that they’ve introduced the app to families. That will help you tailor your next meeting to the specific needs of your staff and the families you serve.