

## Details

How to Create Top Five Lists of Resources to Share with Families - 056

*In this episode, I share tips for picking the best resources for families and organizing them so they are easy to share. You'll also hear about three tools to make this happen and quick steps to follow!*

## Introduction

Hello there! My name is Monica Burns, I'm a former classroom teacher and now I spend my time sharing tips, strategies and activity ideas to make EdTech integration easier in your classroom. You may be familiar with my books, like *Tasks Before Apps* or my blog [ClassTechTips.com](http://ClassTechTips.com). Whether we've met at a conference or special event, you've followed along with my EdTech tips for years, or simply joining in for the first time today, I'm so glad you're here!

In this bite-sized podcast you'll get some quick info and actionable tips to energize and elevate teaching and learning!

You can head to my website [classtechtips.com/podcast](http://classtechtips.com/podcast) for all of the show notes. That's where you'll find the transcript for each episode, links to resources, and any of the free downloads I mention.

## Promotion/Reminder

Quick reminder -- On March 25th opened up the doors to the Easy EdTech Club. Today, March 31st, is the last day to join in 2020. So head over to [classtechtips.com/club](http://classtechtips.com/club) to join or send me a message on Instagram @classtechtips and I'll get you all the info --today is the last day to join, the doors close today March 31st. If you are listening to this after March 31st, that same page will turn into a waitlist page and you can add your name to the waitlist and I'll let you know the next time doors open.

## Today's Intro

This week's podcast is titled: *How to Create Top Five Lists of Resources to Share with Families* -- I created this episode after writing about the topic for District Administration's online magazine. I'll link to it the show notes in case you'd like to read it. Let's jump into the episode!

## Episode Transcript

With school closures across the country, educators are working hard to locate resources to share with families. In some settings, this includes sharing assignments with students directly through a content management system. In other instances, educators are handpicking resources that connect to curriculum goals and sharing these resources with families.

This blog post will take you through a strategy for sharing resources with families that are relevant to their current needs. We'll look at how you can choose five resources for families and create a website with information on each one. The idea behind this strategy is that you can create collections of resources on one topic. You can vet these resources to make sure they are high-quality and relevant, before creating a top five list to share with families.

*Note: The strategy shared in this episode provides ideas to create a mobile-friendly website of resources that teachers can share with families. It is important to note in addition to issues related to access to devices and connectivity, that many families are faced with challenges with housing, childcare, and finances. As a result, accessing resources for their children might not be at the top of their list of priorities in the short-term.*

To get started with this strategy choose a topic. Your topic might be very general like, "podcasts for kids," or more specific like, "virtual reality tours of Europe." Once you have your topic in mind, you can search online for resources. This might include a blog post with ideas, a [Pinterest board with links](#), a podcast on the topic, or a Google Search. For example, you might listen to a [podcast episode with online resources like this one](#), and then choose a few to add to your top five list.

Once you have your list of five links, you can list them all on a [Google Doc](#) and include a sentence or two about the resource. You might decide to share the link to the Google Doc in View Only mode with families. Then they can read about each link and explore the resources. In addition to explaining the resource in a sentence or two, you could include an action item or [discussion prompt](#) for families to use, too.

Now you might be all set, but if you want to take it a step further, you can create a website with pictures and a cleaner layout. I'm a big fan of the [Spark tools](#) and [Ben Forta](#) from Adobe and I even wrote a [book with classroom activities](#) for using Spark with kids. This strategy takes a different approach -- with the teacher as creator.

How does this work? Teachers can use [Spark Page on the web](#) or using the iOS app. They can create a page and fill it up with the resources they'd like to share with students and families. This is a strategy I shared in an earlier blog post on creating video playlists. You can find the step-by-step guide with instructions on how to create your own [in this blog post](#).

For a Top Five list, you can add the title and description along with a header image at the top of the page. Then you use the + sign to add the content from your Google Doc with a simple copy

and paste. You might also decide to add buttons for each link and place the paragraph with additional information or instructions right below it.

Now there are a few other website creation tools you could try out too, including [Google Sites](#). The idea here is that you are sharing one link with families so they can access the list of resources you've handpicked for them. If your students are working remotely for the remainder of the school, this strategy can place "just right" resources in the hands of families!

### **So let's make this EdTech easy...**

1. Choose a topic for your top five list
2. Find five resources
3. Organize the links and add a description
4. Share the list with families

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### **Outro**

I love bringing you free resources like this podcast to energize and elevate teaching and learning! Can you do me a favor? If you like the podcast, leave a review on iTunes, Spotify or wherever you're listening to this... tell a friend about the podcast, or post a link to the episode on your social media. And if you'd like to stay connected follow @classtechtips on Instagram or your favorite social network. I visit schools and conferences all over the world, so if your organization is in need of professional learning -- just send a message my way!

### **Episode Resources**

- <https://districtadministration.com/how-to-create-top-5-resource-lists-for-students-and-families/>