

What is ICT?

ICT stands for Information Communication Technology. The most obvious example of this is computers, but it also means televisions, DVD's, CD's, cassette recorders, telephones, musical keyboards, programmable toys, camcorders, cameras...

Why is it important?

The government has placed a lot of importance in ICT. This has been reflected in the policies they have implemented. The government has set up a scheme called e-credits which enable schools to buy software for the computers. They have also given ICT the same status as English, Numeracy and Science in schools.

What can parents do to help?

In the home, give your child as much hands on experience with technology as possible. This **does not** mean a lot of money has to be spent on an expensive computer.

What can be done without a computer?

Many ICT skills for young children can be gained from every day devices around the home.

- Televisions – encourage younger children to change channels and switch them on and off.
- Cassette recorders, videos and DVD's – teach children how to play a tape/DVD, to rewind and fast forward, to find the part they want to watch or listen to. Teach them how to record a programme, or themselves singing.
- CD players – show them how to play and change tracks.
- Programmable toys – many toys develop ICT skills, such as remote controlled vehicles and animals, musical keyboards, electronic cash registers, children's telephones/ microwaves etc, and children's electronic computers.
- Teach the children how to click and that they have to keep a steady hand while they do it.
- Show the children how to click and hold down while dragging the mouse, a skill that is needed in most computer programs, especially a drawing program.
- If you feel your children are able, teach them how to load a program by double clicking on an icon, load a CD-ROM, save a document into a file or print a document.

What programs are recommended?

There are a lot of programs in shops that are suitable for young children. Many of them are good and come on a CD-ROM. They are often very colourful, fun and have good educational content.

Here are a few guidelines to help:

- The BBC produces very good educational CD ROMs. Many of them use characters that your children are familiar with such as Balamory, Pingu, Tweenies etc. They also produce CD ROMs in various subject areas.

What if there is a computer at home?

- Show children how to move the mouse, and how that moves the pointer on the screen.

- Dorling Kindersley (DK) has many good quality educational CD ROMs that often have an age appropriate age range given to them. Their software covers a range of subjects intensively and often contain well known characters such as Arthur They also do Children's Encyclopaedias and dictionaries which are useful resources for children especially in Year 2.
- A children's painting program. Many of them have fun painting tools, often with sound effects. These are particularly good at developing children's mouse control and introducing them to easy ways of editing and improving their own work.

www.bbc.co.uk/children/ - Various resources. For younger children then proceed to the Cbeebies link.

www.bbc.co.uk/learning/ - Lots of resources to use and support in every subject.

www.puffin.co.uk – Excellent for finding out about books and different authors.

www.roalddahl.com – A fun colourful literacy site.

www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/vtc-home/vtc-ks1-home.htm - Resources in every area of the curriculum.

www.coxhoe.durham.sch.uk/curriculum.htm - This school's site has links to hundreds of web pages in all areas of the curriculum.

What about the Internet?

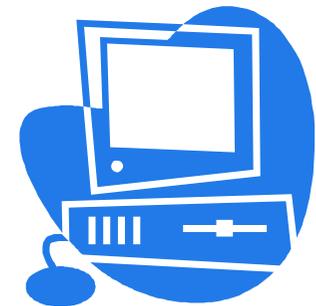
There are an ever increasing number of sites aimed at children, and many of them have ideas for parents included, some of which you have to pay a subscription fee but there are many of which that are free:

NEVER leave young children unsupervised on the internet.

Above all, work with your child and make it FUN!!!

Developing ICT in the home

Information Communication Technology



A guide for parents on how to help young children develop ICT skills
