

Technology Integration for Primary Students (T.I.P.S)

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P rimary teachers know they need to integrate technology into their curriculum. Many are not sure what exactly they should be doing, or how to do it. In this newsletter, I will attempt to answer some of the common questions I am asked regarding integrating technology into the K-3 classroom.

Question: Why should we use computers in the early years classroom?

Primary teachers use many tools in their classroom. Some of these include crayons, paint, math manipulatives, playdough, and computers. Computers should be another tool in the early years classroom.

Question: Should I have a separate computer class?

We don't teach television or sandbox, why would we teach computers? Ideally, when your students are using the computer, they are practicing skills they learned in math, L.A., Science, Social Studies, and other subjects. Computers should not really be a separate class on it's own, rather, use computers to enhance what you do in the other curricula.

Question: How can I use computers?

Computers have two uses at these grade levels. The first is a teacher tool to enhance teaching. The second is a student tool to enhance student learning.

Question: How can I use the computer as a teacher tool to enhance teaching?

- The Internet can be used to research innovative lesson plans, find, create, and print worksheets and puzzles for students, and to collect resources for a unit of study. You could also search Manitoba

Education's library to gather materials for your unit of study.

- A word processing desktop publishing program, or concept mapping program like **Inspiration** can be used to create worksheets. These worksheets could be duplicated and distributed in class.
- E-mail could be used to communicate with other teachers or parents.
- Presentation software (**PowerPoint or StarOffice**) could be used to enhance a lecture. For example, if your class is discussing differences between reptiles and amphibians, you could have a presentation of different examples of reptiles or amphibians. Also, using **Inspiration** Software to assist when brainstorming can be helpful.

Question: How can my early years students use computers to enhance learning?

Do you presently use centers? Try incorporate computers into your centers. Here are some ideas.

- At the Math Center, include a computer with Math Activities. These games could be online or that computer could be loaded with math software like MathTrek. Consider getting involved with the online Tooth Tally Project. See more about this at

<http://wilburnes.wcpsd.net/toothtally/tooth02.html>

- At the Writing Center, computers can be used for keyboarding, Writers Workshop (brainstorming, writing, editing, publishing), and E-Pals. Students could e-mail their family, school community, or others around the world. [Http://www.epals.com](http://www.epals.com)
- At the Reading Center, use Living Books or A to Zap series. Have Interactive web sites bookmarked for easy access.
- At the Science Center, use Sammy's Science House software. Or find science related sites and

bookmark them for easy access. Include an Ask an Expert web site like Ask Dr. Universe.

<http://www.wsu.edu/DrUniverse>

- At the Art or Creative Center, students could use a drawing or painting or multimedia program to create something unique.

Question: I don't have access to the computer lab very often. How do I use computers when I only have a few in my room?

When you go to the computer room, it's easy to teach "computers" when you really want to teach Math or L.A. One of the best ways to incorporate computers into your curriculum is to have a few in your classroom and treat them like a learning center. Your 2 or 3 computers can be a learning center, or they can be part of a Math or L.A. Learning center. It's easier to monitor 2-3 computers at a time, than 25. Of course, use your time in the lab as well, but don't try to teach something new to all the students at once.

Question: How do I teach a bunch of Grade 1 kids something on the computer? It takes me 20 minutes for all of them to get logged on, then someone makes a mistake or a machine freezes and it's start all over again.

Some approaches that teachers have tried include:

- Have your students partner up with an older grade when learning new skills like launching programs or navigating to a web site.
- Teach the material to 3 or 4 students. Those students become the "experts" and are then responsible to show other students what to do at the computer. Kids love to be the "teacher", and it really frees up the teacher to be at another center.

Question: What does Manitoba Education & Youth say about computers in the early years?

Students at the K-3 level are at the Exploratory Stage. They are expected to have a general exposure to, and experience with, a variety of information technologies as learning tools. They should be involved in activities like acquiring information from the Internet and CD-ROM, create electronic presentations, participate in teacher-guided online activities, use word processors, drawing applications, and educational software, and explore electronic communication.

Question: Where can I get information on the Internet?

Printable worksheets at

<http://www.aplusmath.com/>

<http://abcteach.com/>

<http://www.edhelper.com/>

Online Math games for Students at

<http://www.aaamath.com/>

<http://www.aplusmath.com/>

<http://www.coolmath4kids.com/>

<http://www.funbrain.com/8>

Lesson Plans

<http://atozteacherstuff.com/themes/> Themes, lesson plans, and printable worksheets.

<http://edtech.kennesaw.edu/web/k-2.htm> Lesson Plans and Themes

<http://school.discovery.com/teachers/index.html> Lesson Plans and Teaching Tools

<http://abcteach.com/>

Sites for early Years Students

<http://webtech.kennesaw.edu/jcheek3/lilones.htm>

<http://pbskids.org/sesame/> Sesame Street

<http://www.seussville.com/seussville/games/>

Kindergarten Activities

<http://www.gkestner.com/K.html>

First Grade Activities

<http://www.gkestner.com/1.html>

<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Tower/1217/grade1.html>

Kids Search Engine

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!/>

National Geographic for Kids

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/index.html>

More web sites for early years lesson plans, themes, printable worksheets, and student sites can be found at BPSD web site. Click [here](#) to go directly there.