

CompuChild Chatter

Though it's becoming increasingly difficult to stay inside as the weather warms up, CompuChild students look forward to class every week. It can be hard to get any substantive answer out of our kids when we ask them "What did you do today?"; perhaps this newsletter will answer some of your questions.

CompuChild USA

March 2006

What is Your CompuChild Learning?

All of our students begin at the beginning, because it's important to ensure that everyone understands the fundamentals before we move on to more difficult concepts. We learn terminology so that we can all talk about things the same way. We learn how to find and use help in a program, so that we can learn how to use it when a grown-up or older sibling is not around to ask. We learn about the keys on the keyboard, how to handle a CD properly, how to open and close programs correctly, and many other basic skills.

We learn at a pace that's appropriate for the class, so that older or more experienced children move much more quickly through this material than the youngest students. We are careful to review in every class to reinforce past lessons.

In addition to these skills, CompuChildren use teamwork and cooperation in class. We all take turns so that everyone gets to try new things and use their skills. Those who have had their turn often help classmates. Here are some of the soft-

ware titles we've been using in class:

- Richard Scarry's Best Activity Center Ever
- Elmo's Preschool
- Kid Pix Deluxe
- Arthur's Kindergarten
- Ultimate Writing & Creativity Center
- Mr. Potato Head

Please call (841.5268 or 935.1802) or email me (rgardner@compuchild.com) with questions or concerns.

These are some questions to ask your CompuChild:

- Who is Sammy?
- Where is the monitor, keyboard, mouse (we often use a trackball instead), brain?
- What is the little arrow called?
- How do we make the game harder or easier?



What Will My Child Learn?

Amazing as it sounds, the March 2006 issue of the NAEYC's Young Children reports a story about some Nebraska public school kindergarten children who, for the last two years, have used Microsoft's PowerPoint to tell their parents how they are doing in school for the third quarter parent-teacher conferences. These presentations are constructed to allow the children to assess their own accomplishments in a way that was meaningful to them.

Using clip art and digital pictures, the teacher and media-technology specialist devised prompts that allowed children to record and remember their responses regardless of their reading

ability. Children would input their data with the aid of an adult, and before the presentations they would rehearse what to do and say. The presentations allowed them to practice their presentation and public speaking skills as a collateral benefit to the process. Final surveys revealed that parents and children found the presentations to be exciting and enjoyable, 100% of the parents recommended this type of conferences for the future, and attendance at third quarter conferences has reached 100% for two years in a row.

The use of PowerPoint by younger students is increasing in other parts of

the country, as well. According to a South Carolina CompuChild Program Director, 2nd/3rd graders in her area use it to do presentations and written reports. Once they know the basics for Word and keyboarding, the teachers move on to PowerPoint.

The mission of CompuChild is to prepare children adequately to succeed in elementary school. MS PowerPoint is one of the applications CompuChild teaches after the fundamentals are mastered.