

CompuChild Chatter



September 2009

School is starting again—where did the summer go? CompuChild classes that were suspended for the summer are starting up again, new classes have started in new schools, classes have been scheduled for school-age students, and workshops are on the calendar for adult students.

CompuChild
Technology Education

As school begins, we have safety on our minds. There are things to think about:

- ☞ One serious concern parents have as school begins is keeping our children healthy in the face of the H1N1 and other viruses. Make it a rule at home that no one uses the computer without washing with soap and water first—I ask my youngest students if I can pop their bubbles so that I'm sure they keep the soap on their hands long enough to be effective. You can also clean your keyboard, and mouse or trackball using alcohol prep pads (they won't soak the equipment) available anywhere—just make sure the computer is off before you wipe. You'll be horrified at how dirty those things can get! Shared keyboards in the workplace are a common way to share viruses, as well!
- ☞ If your child goes online, be sure to use [our June 2006 newsletter for ideas on Internet safety at home](#). There are also links you can follow for additional help and information to protect your child. And don't forget that [Kidzui](#) is available to keep your child age 4-12 safe online.

Please call 401.935.1802 or email me (robin@compuchild-ri.com) any time. Visit online at www.compuchild-ri.com.

Exciting News! CompuChild has formed a partnership with [PeeWeePC](#), the #1 maker of awesome rugged, child-proof ergonomic computers for children. These are real computers, not toys, available as laptops, tablet PCs, and desktops. They come configured with security software, age-appropriate educational software, and more. And they're ruggedized: water-resistant keyboards, drop-proof construction, and lightweight.

PeeWeePC offers special promotions on a regular basis, and CompuChild friends and families can apply an additional promotion as well.

CompuChild discounts are also available to schools. Contact us for more information and to get your promotion codes!



PeeWeePC

FOR SCHOOL-AGERS: If your child is getting ready to start school, and will be doing homework on the computer, you can provide the software he or she needs without spending a lot of money to do it. There are many free and Open Source programs available—I urge you to try them out. [Check out the handout on Free and Open Source software on our website](#). You can always buy the commercial products if you don't like the free ones, right?

Whether your child uses OpenOffice or Microsoft Office, the skills they need to produce awesome projects for school are the same. The more they know how to do, the more they can focus on the content of their projects, and the better their projects will be. There is on-going enrollment in our school-age classes which are offered as 6-week units. Each unit focuses on a different skill-set. Knowledge is Power! Call 935.1802 or email robin@compuchild-ri.com for more information!

As our families and school friends know, while we start our youngest students out at the beginning, we use every opportunity to include literacy skill practice in our classes. For our youngest students, we look for words that start with certain letters, such as **Shut Down**, to enhance reading skills while we also learn technology skills. Many of our students improve their reading skills significantly in our classes.

Where can we go today? Check these out!



Great places to visit with your child:

- ☞ Games for kids & preschoolers: <http://www.kidscomjr.com/>
- ☞ Word searches, and printables, for preschool and up: http://www.quiz-tree.com/Sight-Words_main.html
- ☞ Great age-appropriate fun with info to parents: <http://www.surfkidzui.com>