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Technology Resources

Introduction

There are many things to know about using technology. This section is organized into several different topic areas. The first topic area has sites on how computers work. They have been provided to give parents help on how computers, the Internet, peripheral devices, or anything else electronic works. Some of the sites offer explanations; others offer tutorials, while still others offer activities families can use. Check out these sites and make a list of the ones that might be helpful to you, and another list of the ones that would be helpful to your children.

There is also a helpful section on search engines. Search engines are organized in two ways. The first is searching using keywords and the second is searching by related categories in a directory. For example, if you were looking for information about American Presidents, you might try a word search using the key words *American Presidents*, or you might go to a search engine's directory and find a category related to the information about American Presidents for which you are looking. Keyword searches work well when you are looking for specific information and directories work well when you are looking for information or ideas about a topic in general.

SUGGESTED activity

A great site to review Internet safety is Surfswell at <http://disney.go.com/surfswell/index.html>. At this site, there are a series of games that deal with privacy issues, viruses, and tact online. Sit with your child as you play these games allowing him or her to see the right and wrong answers to important questions that could save your child from an unsafe situation. It is important for your child to be aware of safety issues while doing anything online, especially when it involves chatting or messaging other people. All kids need to know the issues brought up on Surfswell Island. You can introduce this activity to your child at any age, but because it is Disney themed it may appeal more to younger children. Read the parent's guide before letting your child play the games.

Technology Resources *[cont.]*

Computer Magazines

Technology and Learning Magazine

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

The Technology and Learning Network is the home of the *Technology and Learning* magazine, techlearning.com, and Technology and Learning Events. These media provide comprehensive, relevant, and authoritative information on technology trends, new products, and news. TechLearning.com offers a free subscription to *Technology and Learning Magazine* and the *Technology and Learning Newsletter*.

ZDNET—Technology News

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

If you want to purchase a computer or have a question about your computer, this is the site for you. It has special reports on new products, reviews, technologies, and advice and information on storage, operating systems, security, online communications, and networking.

PC World

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

If you want to purchase new equipment like a computer, a laptop, or digital camera, check out this site. *PC World* features articles, PC reviews and rankings, pricing guides, how-to instructions, and technical advice.

PC Magazine

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

PC Magazine provides comprehensive product evaluations based on benchmark tests from the *PC Magazine Labs*. You also get in-depth reports on the latest technologies and insightful profiles of the people that make the PC industry run.

Computer User

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

Computer User offers daily computer articles and news, reviews, computer dictionary, ISP search, training directory, and resources. This is a good site for you and/or your child to check out if you are interested in computer training or some type of technology certification. *Computer User* has an excellent listing of training opportunities.

Technology Resources *[cont.]*

Computer Magazines *[cont.]*

ComputerWorld Magazine

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

Computer World is an information source covering laptops, desktops, software, hardware, security, networking, and storage. The level of coverage is meant for those who want details and want to be able to compare products based on the understanding of those details.

Mac Life

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

Mac Life is a monthly magazine for the Macintosh enthusiast. They offer a summary of the articles in their *Mac Life* magazine, forums, blogs, news, reviews, and downloads. Make sure you use this site if you have a Macintosh computer or other Mac product.

MacWorld—The Mac Experts

<http://www.macworld.com>

MacWorld features practical how-tos, in-depth features, the latest troubleshooting tips and tricks, industry news, and future trends. Check this site if you are a Mac user.

Graphic and Photo Sources

Google—Images

<http://images.google.com/>

Google Images is definitely the best place for you and your family to look for images. Make sure you understand that you need to choose a picture that is sufficiently high in resolution. You need to go to “See Full Sized Image” before saving the image. You must also be aware of the need to save the reference information for any image you download.

Free Clip Art

<http://classroomclipart.com/>

This site is a source for free clip art, illustrations, and photographs. It is organized by theme or category and is relatively easy to search.

Technology Resources *[cont.]*

Graphic and Photo Sources *[cont.]*

Photo Course Online—Resources in Digital Photography

<http://www.photocourse.com/resources.htm>

This page lists many resources for learning digital photography. It lists famous photographers, so you can search for images by these people and discover some great sites. They also have links to photographic societies, videos, museums, national collections, commercial collections, history of photography, and other photography related resources.

American Memory—Photos and Print Collection

<http://rs6.loc.gov/papr/mpixhome.html>

This is an amazing national resource for you and your family. American Memory is part of the American Library of Congress. You can view documents, maps, motion pictures, photos and prints, and sound recordings. You can search by topic or theme, by date or by place, and you can read, hear, or see items.

University of Washington Photo Collection

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/search-collection-list.html>

This is a simply wonderful collection of photographs relating to American History. The collections are organized by theme and are easy to explore.

How Computers Work

How Stuff Works

<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/>

How Stuff Works is a great place to go if you want to know how something works or you need an answer to a technology question. This site offers thorough, but simple, explanations that are easy to understand. You can find the answers to questions like, does adding more RAM to my computer make it faster? or how can a Windows virus end up on my iPod?

CNet Learning Hubs

<http://help.cnet.com/>

Some of the many learning hubs at CNet include Design and Imaging, Digital Music, Digital Photography, Games and Gear, Microsoft Office, Networking and Wireless, PC Security, PC Troubleshooting, and Windows Vista. Their materials are easy to use and understand.

Technology Resources *[cont.]*

How Computers Work *[cont.]*

3D Computer Term Dictionary

<http://www.maran.com/dictionary/index.html>

This dictionary provides simple, easy-to-use definitions for hundreds of computer- and technology-based terms. A graphic illustration is included to add to understanding of the word.

Education World—EdTech Tips of the Week

http://www.education-world.com/a_tech/archives/tech_tips.shtml

We all need simple solutions so that we do not panic when technology problems occur. The problem solving tips presented here are in an easy-to-understand format and are appropriate for parents as well as educators.

Answers That Work—The Home of Practical Computing

<http://www.answersthatwork.com/library.htm>

In the Answers That Work Library, you can find help to fix computer problems and computer errors, and to tune up your PC. Some of the topics include Software Answers and PC Tips, Hardware Problems Configuration Solutions, Networking Tips, General Computer Tips, Recommendations, Drivers, Software Downloads, Our Famous Task List, and PC Tune Up and PC Performance. This site offers very specialized help and information. Look up your computer model and get the help you need.

Education World—Techtorials

http://www.education-world.com/a_tech/archives/tech-torials.shtml

Techtorials can make all the difference between being uncomfortable and comfortable with a computer skill. This site offers easy to follow tutorials on the following topics: Computer Basics, Computer Maintenance and Trouble Shooting, the Internet, Web Design, E-mail, *Office*, *Word*, *PowerPoint*, *Excel*, Apple Hardware and Software, Keyboarding, Professional Development, and Curriculum and Emerging Technologies. Try one of the Techtorials and see if you find the process helpful.

Click and Learn—What's Inside a Computer

http://www.kids-online.net/learn/c_n_l.html

Select the novice, junior, or master level and begin to learn about the inside of a computer. All you need to do is click on a computer part to learn all about it. This is a great interactive, visual-based learning resource.
