

What if I don't own a PC?



- Encourage regular contact with, and discussion of, the technology in their everyday environment *eg washing machines, televisions, videos, games consoles, hairdryers, remote control toys, traffic lights and cash registers*. Use toys that simulate real-life applications of ICT *eg telephones and cameras* and ICT-based toys and games *eg keyboards that can save and play back tunes, sound-activated toys, robots and walking dolls*.
- Talk about computers that they have used, how they made them work, what they used them for, and how they knew that those tools were computers;
- Encourage the children take photos when you go somewhere- to a party or on holiday.
- Encourage the children to make recordings on a tape recorder.
- Let the children use a video camera on holidays or even make their own movie.
- Find out about local library use.

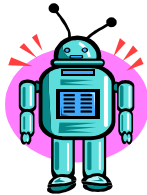


Handy websites

www.bbc.co.uk

www.ajkids.com Ask Jeeves for children

www.aplusmath.com



DEVELOPING ICT AT HOME



Information Communication Technology (ICT) is becoming increasingly important in twenty-first century life. At Oughtibridge Primary School, we feel it is important that all children are offered the best possible opportunities to gain skills and a range of experiences in ICT.

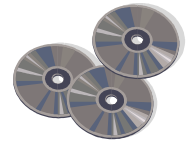
The ICT curriculum requires that children are able to **use and apply** skills in a range of situations by the end of Key Stage 2. In school all pupils have two lessons in the computer suite per week; one to develop their skills and the other to apply them in other situations. We have computers and interactive whiteboards throughout school and we encourage the use of other types of technology in the classroom environment too.

In order for children to be able to use ICT effectively they need to have the basics in place. One key area which could be improved upon is keyboard skills, the children would be much more able to demonstrate their ICT capability if they could write their ideas down quickly.

We are aware that the children have different experiences of ICT at home and differing levels of access to technology. We have produced this leaflet to offer ideas and guidance in order that you can encourage your child to use computers and other pieces of technology as much as possible.



What skills do the children need to practise?



- Keyboard skills
- Saving work on the hard drive and onto floppy disks and CDs.
- Using a search engine on the internet safely.
- Knowing how to use the computer safely and sensibly *eg not touching the plugs and switches or taking out the disk*

Any use of technology will help to develop the children's confidence, which can otherwise act as a barrier to their learning- this includes anything from washing machines to remote control toys!

Ideas for developing ICT at home

- Write thank you letters on the computer after Christmas and birthdays.
- Design own party invitations on the computer.
- Send e-mails to friends and family.
- Use websites to practise mouse and maths skills (www.aplusmath.com)
- Use websites for stories (e.g. Cbeebies website www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/storycircle/)
- Encourage children to research their topic on the internet or using an encyclopaedia on CD-ROM.
- Encourage children to use drawing programmes (this really helps with their mouse control).
- Develop hand-eye co-ordination using a keyboard, mouse or joystick to move the pointer on the screen.

