

Using computers in early years: activity guide

Give children in your setting the knowledge to operate simple equipment and understand that information can be retrieved from computers.

Learning aims

- Complete a simple program on a computer
- Interact with age-appropriate computer software.

Resources

- Tablet e.g. iPad or similar
- Apps (some are FREE but the better quality apps have a fee and will need an iTunes or Google Play Store account to be set up depending on your device)
- Try apps which bring the children's favourite stories to life e.g. The Very Hungry Caterpillar.



Activity Outline

- Open the app
- Work with a small group of children 1:2 or 3 so they can have a hands-on experience
- Show the children how to hold the tablet, explaining that it is a special item
- Show the children how the app works, some of the children will already know how to swipe, however they will need to be shown how to activate each part of the app
- Once you have shown the children how to use it allow them to explore and ask them to show other children how it works.

Working with babies

- Young babies can enjoy looking at and touching a tablet, especially using apps which include nursery rhymes, sounds and colours
- Try Baby's Musical Hands – Streaming Colour Studios (Universal – £0.69)

Special considerations

- *You should include E-safety information in your safeguarding policy and provide information for parents*
- *Ensure you have set parental controls and limit content on the tablet before using it*
- *Purchase a hard wearing case and screen protector*
- *Check out the content of all apps before you use them with the children*
- *Will the apps enhance the children's learning experience within the EYFS?*
- *Does the app develop the Characteristics of Effective Learning?*
- *Ensure you have permission from parent for taking/displaying/sharing any photos of children.*