

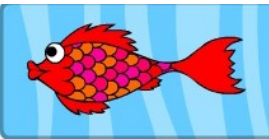


www.mousewizards.co.uk
Summer 2012

Special points of interest:

- Our themes for this term
- New Venues for Summer Term
- Typing
- Taking photos
- Teaching in pairs

Free Websites To Try



www.poissonrouge.com

Aimed at children in the Foundation Stage, there is no right or wrong way of using this site. It is up to children to find what they want by exploring. There are no instructions—all that is required is an inquiring mind!

www.topmarks.co.uk

A range of maths and literacy games aimed at children aged between 3 and 14. Uses the computer as a learning tool.

www.freerice.com

A vocabulary building activity for older children. For each correct answer, the World Food Programme will donate 10 grains of rice to help end hunger.

Please share any educational sites with us that your children love using. We'd love to hear from you!

This term has flown by and we have been very impressed with the achievements the children have made. Mini MouseWizards have been following the theme of **Minibeasts and Life-cycles**, while Mouse-Wizard Masters have been heading to infinity and beyond with our **'Space and Aliens'** theme. Jackie & I have been busy working with our web designer on our new website, which will provide us with a fabulous new platform for sharing the wonderful work your children produce.

New Venues

This term we are delighted to have started in new venues including Denham Village Infants School and Lent Rise School, Burnham. Lent Rise School is one of the leading schools in the UK for ICT and provides an exciting opportunity for MouseWizards as it involves working with both parents and children in an early morning club.

Final Term at Nursery

We have welcomed lots of new faces in nurseries in this term before children leave nursery behind to begin their Primary School education. Even a term's computer tuition can give children extra skills and confidence for a head start in their new schools. We really can take your child's mouse

MouseWizards activities are designed to promote collaboration and sharing to mutually benefit children working in a pair.

We set up the computer to foster interaction and use 2 mice to make the computer a social experience. This also minimizes the likelihood of one child dominating control of the mouse. Children needing support during activities benefit from working together. We actively encourage conversation and collaboration with peers. Our findings are that children quickly learn to share responsibilities and co-operate to achieve goals.

and keyboard skills to the next level.

Do take a look at our website for activities that will help to develop your child's mouse skills.

Time to Type

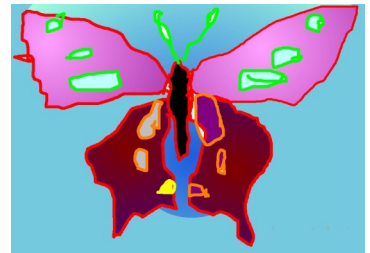
If your child is preschool, one of the first words they will learn to write & type is their name. We dedicate time during MouseWizard sessions to develop keyboard skills. At first we customize activities so only the letters in your child's name appear. Once they recognize letter shapes, we encourage them to find the letters on the keyboard. Typing their name is an activity children could very much enjoy practicing at home. We encourage children to hold down the shift key to create a capital letter for their initial letter sound from early on and introduce the space bar once they can type their first name competently. Practicing typing their name this summer could enable your child to log on to the school computer independently next term!

Picture Perfect

The summer holidays provide an excellent opportunity for school age children to practice using digital cameras to take photos. Start by ensuring they use the safety strap—just incase! Encourage your child to make the image fit in the centre of

the view finder and practice holding the camera with fingers away from the flash and keeping very still when taking the photo!

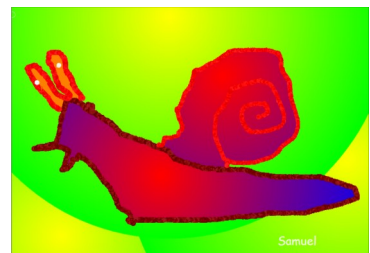
Practice makes perfect and along with having fun, you are bound to see a huge improvement!



Using drag and draw skills to trace a butterfly.
Melissa (Age 4)



Ollie (Year 1)



Samuel (Age 3)

Working in Pairs

Educational research also supports this: research by Blaye indicates that children working in pairs were twice as likely to succeed on the computer-based problem-solving task than children working alone (the notion that 'two heads are often better than one in problem solving').

Vygotsky also asserted that, '...computers provide a unique learning environment for peer scaffolding. Children find it irresistible to work together at the computer and are able to create a "shared problem space" in which

they complete tasks and solve problems together.' (Freeman & Somerindyke)

There are of course occasions when children benefit from having their own computer, particularly in desktop publishing activities or researching when they will need to focus on using the keyboard or internet. There are many times when children have these opportunities, namely at home and in school.