
A Letter to Families About Computers

Dear Families,

In our program we are delighted to have computers as learning tools for the children. When they use computers, children

- become comfortable with technology
- develop beginning reading and writing skills
- begin to understand math concepts such as counting and numerical relationships
- learn to express themselves creatively
- solve problems and begin to do research

We encourage children to work at the computer in pairs or small groups. This helps them learn from each other and supports their social skills. While the children are working at the computer, we ask them questions to help them think about what they're doing:

“What made you decide to choose this program?”

“How can we use the computer to send a copy of your painting to your grandparents?”

“What would you like to do with the printouts you made today?”

By working with children in these ways, we not only encourage their development and learning in all areas, but we also help prepare them for a future in which they will need to know how to use computers.

What You Can Do at Home

You may or may not have a computer in your home. It is certainly not necessary that you have one in order for your child to benefit from our program's Computer area. If you do have a home computer and would like to know some ways to use it with your child, please ask. We will be glad to provide you with assistance, including how to judge which programs and Internet sites are appropriate for young children. We have some good information on this topic that we'd like to share with you.

You may be interested in visiting our program to observe how children use computers. If you'd like to volunteer to work with children in the Computer area, we'd be delighted to have your help. You may even enjoy learning more about computers, yourself!