

Rules for Helping Children Use Computers

1. Computers Use = Knowledge + Performance
 - Performance increases learning
2. Short practice sessions are better than long drills
3. Use a skills checksheet
4. “RATS” Read **all** the screen
5. Use the “On-Line Help”
6. Use these steps for new activities
 - Engage and Excite
 - Explore
 - Explain
 - Elaborate
 - Evaluate
7. Understand the “Magic Number” of 7 +/- 2 in learning tasks
8. Most “Educational” games are teach very little
9. Have children tell you what they are doing as they do it
10. Encourage real work
 - Reports
 - Letters
 - E-Mail
 - Research
 - Budgets
 - Plans
11. Don't Worry!
 - Pressing keys can not damage hardware
 - Computers are made to be left **on**
 - There are programs and tricks that can keep children from trashing your files
12. Have your child teach you.