Computers & Kids NEWS

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Best Bookmarks for Summer Fun!

Do you live with an active preschool-aged child? Do you ever run out of ideas for entertaining? This summer's must-have bookmarks will turn any parent or sitter into a professional activities director!

For young children, summer should be all about getting dirty outside, playing with friends (human, imaginary, and animal alike!) and having fun! If you need a little inspiration to get your children going just bookmark these sites for quick reference during down times!

Looking for Frugal Fun on a sunny summer day? The Preschoolers Today website offers a lot of fun activities for children that do not require much organization or money! For example, when was the last time you and your preschooler had a picnic or went on a bug walk? Find out more at http://www.preschoolerstoday.com/resources/articles/preschoolfun.htm.

Looking for Rainy Day fun? Send your children on a mission to find the **Yuckiest Site** on the Internet! Discovery Kids offers the best site for Yucky Entertainment. Check it out at http://yucky.discovery.com/flash/ where you can get all the "dirt" on worms from a reporter named Wendell (who is also a worm!).

Do you remember Hopscotch? Refresh your memory and teach your children how to play hopscotch and other classic summer sidewalk games at the Family Education site – http://fun.familyeducation.com/. Return to this site for family-friendly movie recommendations, coloring pages, holiday ideas, and so much more!

Locate and print the Buckleitner Internet activities seen above at www.computerexplorers.com

Global Adventures await Older Children at PBS Kids (http://pbskids.org/krattscreatures/login.shtml?) where the Kratts Creatures walk you through the creation of your very own pseudo-vacation video. Chris and Martin, familiar to most PBS viewers, help children make their own videos on the continents and in the habitat of their choice.

Bookmark LittleClickers too for quick access to our fun-filled news for older children who love to learn on the net! (See left for details!)

Buckleitner Box

Dear Parents,
Pinch yourself -- the future is happening.

Like many of you fellow old timers (anyone over 30) I've been observing the chicken/egg relationship between hardware and software ever since floppy disks flopped. You don't have to be all that old to remember when computers cost $2,000 and one megabyte was whale of a lot of memory.

That extended timeline of hardware watching makes it easy to spot the big trends, even if they're only the size of a penny. I'm talking about the Intel Atom processor; a CPU was designed to bring desktop power to low power mobile devices. For our latest issue, I kid-tested the Tablet version the new Intel Classmate, a 1.6 GHz netbook running Windows XP, costing about $500. For the first time, I could hand a preschooler a computer powerful enough to make a graduate student smile.

But here's the best part. You can get nearly the same computer, minus the tablet frosting, for half the price (see the $250 Acer Aspire One for one example). The power/price ratio represented by these computers means that the One Laptop Per Child dream is close at hand. Soon, a school district will be able to give every child a laptop for less money than it costs to print reading books, and this means that the digital curriculum is just around the corner. So, fellow old timers, give yourself a little pinch. The future we've been dreaming and scheming about -- is happening.

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