

Set Your Sites on Learning

Looking for a way to boost your children's basic skills? Steer them to these learning sites on the World Wide Web. From the three Rs to science and social studies, these sites can offer hours of fun and practice!



Reading

BookPALS Storyline Online

www.bookpals.net/storyline

Your young readers can watch books come to life. BookPALS features video files of beloved children's stories, narrated by well-known actors and actresses. The stories, written by authors like Patricia Polacco and William Steig, include follow-up activities to boost comprehension.

Children's Books Online

www.childrensbooksonline.org/library.htm

Send your youngsters on a trip back in time. This site provides the text and illustrations of more than 2,000 antique children's books. From Peter Rabbit to Mother Goose, these classics can be read and enjoyed online. Books are presented in several languages.

KidsReads.com

www.kidsreads.com

Young book lovers will find contests, games, reviews, and trivia at this info-packed site. From *A Is for Abigail* by Lynne Cheney to *Zink* by Cherie Bennett, it spans an alphabet of great reading ideas. Plus, you'll find tips on starting and running a book club.



Writing

International Kids' Space

www.kids-space.org

Would your children enjoy sharing their writing with youngsters around the world? The Kids' Gallery contains original stories on specific topics, such as animals, people, and science. Also featured is the Story Train, a collaborative story project.

Stories from the Web

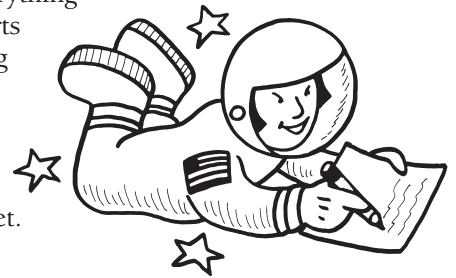
www.storiesfromtheweb.org

When your youngsters feel like writing, steer them here for ideas. They can choose story beginnings written by famous authors or write their own from scratch. They can also try different types of poetry—from letter poems to limericks—and write book reviews.

Writing Activities for Early Writers

www.enchantedlearning.com/essay/writing.shtml

This diverse site offers everything from help with book reports to ideas for creative-writing projects. Writing activities include going on space adventures, inventing a new Olympic sport, and describing an imaginary pet.



Mathematics

Math Games

www.gamequarium.com/math.htm

If your children are looking for math activities, have them visit the Gamequarium. It provides links to the basics, starting with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Online math tools, such as a kids' calculator, are also available.

Math Forum: Elementary School Student Center

www.mathforum.com/students/elem

Your youngsters can talk to other students about math, pose math questions, and try the problem of the week. Math

continued

Forum also includes software reviews and a search feature for finding other math sites.

National Library of Virtual Manipulatives for Interactive Mathematics

www.matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/vlibrary.html

Here's a gold mine of hands-on practice. Choose activities by grade level or math topic. Hundreds of colorful puzzles, games, and other manipulatives are available.

Science

Cool Science for Curious Kids

www.hhmi.org/coolscience

Paying attention to the world around us is the theme here. Your youngsters can examine the food they eat and the air they breathe. A combination of online and offline activities will open their eyes and build their skills.

OLogy

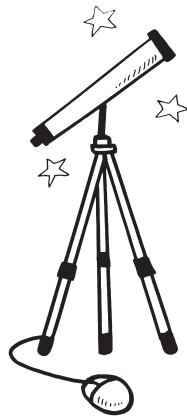
www.ology.amnh.org

Whether your young scientists are interested in archaeology, marine biology, or paleontology, OLogy has it all. The animated pages are filled with activities, information, and online delights. Visit the Hall of Fame to see winning kids' projects.

3d&i Design

www.3d-i.org/design_landing.jsp

Imaginations will run wild at this interactive site. Kids can design a watch, a logo, or a pod to explore the ocean floor. They can also discover and discuss the world of design—from clothes to vehicles and other machines.



Social Studies

America's Story from America's Library

www.americasstory.com

America's Story lets children travel back in time and learn about the country's past. They can meet famous Americans, including artists, writers, scientists, inventors, athletes, and entertainers. They'll also discover America's favorite pastimes and hobbies.

Congress for Kids

www.congressforkids.net

Your children can test their government knowledge at this information-rich site. They'll learn about the Constitution, the three branches of government, and elections. Each

section offers an interactive learning feature, such as quizzes, flash cards, word searches, and puzzles.

World Almanac for Kids

www.worldalmanacforkids.com

Looking for information about U.S. presidents? The world's population? A timeline of U.S. history? Your children will find it at World Almanac. The Ask the Editors section gives them a chance to get answers to things they're curious about.



Virtual Field Trips

Your youngsters can visit these amazing places without ever leaving home. Each site offers a virtual tour of its main attractions.

Exploratorium: The Museum of Science, Art, and Human Perception

www.exploratorium.edu

Head to this online museum for current exhibits on sight, sunspots, and surfing. Hands-on activities involve food, living things, mind and perception, society, and culture.

HubbleSite

www.hubblesite.org

Tour the telescope and view pictures taken in space. Or visit the Fun and Games section to make a handheld Hubble telescope and an asteroid.

National Zoo

www.natzoo.si.edu

Check out this site to learn about the animals that live at the zoo. From giant pandas to reptiles and amphibians, visitors will find lots of photos and activities.

SpaceKids

www.spacekids.com

Blast off on a virtual tour of the solar system. Explore the nine planets, the moon, the sun, or a comet.

U.S. Capitol

www.senate.gov/ytour

Visit the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. This multimedia tour includes panoramic views of famous rooms, including the Senate Chamber.

Editor's Note: Although these Web sites were current at the time of publication, all are subject to change without notice. We suggest that you review each site to determine its appropriateness for your children.

Home & School CONNECTION

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