

---

# A Letter to Families About Computers

Dear Families,

I am delighted to have a computer in my program to use with children aged 3 and older. As I'm sure you are aware, computers can be amazing learning tools when used appropriately. I want to work closely with you to ensure that your child's computer experiences are positive. I need to know how long you'd like your child to use the computer at one sitting and what types of software and Internet sites your child may use.

These are my goals for children's computer use:

- being comfortable with computer technology
- developing reading and writing skills
- learning math skills and understanding math concepts
- expressing themselves creatively
- learning to solve problems and find information

I encourage children to work at the computer in pairs. This helps them learn from each other and supports their social skills. While children are working at the computer, I ask them questions to help them think about what they're doing. For example, I might ask,

“Why did you choose this program?”

“How can you send a copy of your computer painting to your grandparents?”

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

By interacting with the children, I encourage their development and learning and help them prepare for a future in which they will need to know how to work with computers.

You may or may not have a computer at home. It is certainly not necessary for you to have one for your child to benefit from using the computer at my family child care program. If you do have a home computer and would like to know more about using it with your child, please ask. I will be glad to assist you, including sharing information about appropriate programs and Web sites.

By working together as a team, we can help your child have positive, meaningful experiences with the computer.

Sincerely,

Copyright © 2009 by Teaching Strategies, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this text may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without prior written permission from Teaching Strategies, Inc., except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles or reviews.

The publisher and the authors cannot be held responsible for injury, mishap, or damages incurred during the use of or because of the information in this book. The authors recommend appropriate and reasonable supervision at all times based on the age and capability of each child.