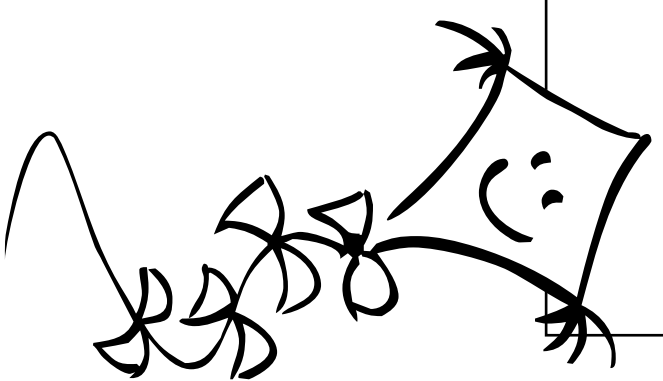


A GUIDE TO
Children's
Resources
ON THE
Internet



**Web sites
of interest to
children and
their parents**

**BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation***

© May 2000
TRI-420-0002-00

Introduction

The Internet, World Wide Web, cyberspace, and information superhighway are words that describe an exciting and ever-expanding learning tool for children. With a click of a mouse, children can learn about a variety of topics, "visit" interesting places, and explore the outer reaches of the universe.

A *Guide to Children's Resources on the Internet* is a reference tool designed for children and adults who have some experience using a computer and a basic knowledge of the Internet. The purpose of this guide is to acquaint both children and adults with the variety of children's resources available on the Internet.

Site Categories

The Web site listings begin on page 4. They are divided into the following categories:



SAFETY ON THE INTERNET



CHILDREN'S SEARCH TOOLS



**HOMEWORK HELP
AND REFERENCE TOOLS**



**MUSEUMS AND INTERESTING
PLACES TO VISIT**



JUST FOR FUN



SITES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN



Sites for Young Children

These sites are specially designed to appeal to younger Web surfers, ages eight and under.

Enchanted Learning

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.html>

This site is perfect for young children. It contains a picture dictionary search engine, "Little Explorers," to make Web searching easy.

Fun for Kids 8 and Under

<http://www.multnomah.lib.or.us/lib/kids/linksyng.html>

This site, organized and maintained by the Multnomah County Library, features links to Web sites for younger children.

Mother Goose Pages

[http://www.personal.umich.edu/](http://www.personal.umich.edu/~pfa/dreamhouse/nursery/rhymes.html)

[~pfa/dreamhouse/nursery/rhymes.html](http://www.personal.umich.edu/~pfa/dreamhouse/nursery/rhymes.html)

A collection of nursery rhymes, with tips on how to share them with children of different ages.

Girl Power!

<http://www.health.org/gpower/index.htm>

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Girl Power! is designed to help encourage and empower 9- to 14-year-old girls to make the most of their lives.

Sports Illustrated for Kids

<http://www.silkids.com>

A colorful site with articles about sports figures, league standings, games, and more.

PBS Kids

<http://www.pbs.org/kids>

This site, part of PBS Online, contains links and activities related to its popular television shows. The "tech-know" section has a quiz, "Get Your Web License Here" that asks you what information is safe to give out online.

Yuckiest Site on the Internet

<http://www.nj.com/yucky>

Young people who love yucky things will enjoy a visit to this site to learn about worms, roaches, and many other gross and cool things.

Selection Criteria

When exploring sites on the Web, it is important to know that the information sources are reliable, accurate, and timely. The sites included in this guide were selected using the following criteria:

- The Web site publisher is clearly identified and can be contacted from the site.
- The Web site's purpose is stated in writing and is obvious when looking at the content.
- The information provided encourages exploration and thinking. It is appealing to, and suits the age level of the children for whom it is designed.
- The Web site is well known in the educational and library community. It is cited in multiple subject resources, both print and online.
- The information provided is current and regularly updated. Revision dates are posted on the site.
- The Web site adheres to accessibility conventions widely accepted in the Internet community.
- The Web site is well organized and easy to use. Text should be easy to read and not cluttered with distracting graphics, fonts, and backgrounds. Spelling and grammar should always be correct.
- The Web site includes search or index functions for easier navigation.

Site Listings



Safety on the Internet

The Internet is full of interesting places that can provide many wonderful learning experiences for children; however, it is important to understand the risk involved for children. The following sites provide information about keeping children safe while using the Internet.

Child Safety on the Information Highway

http://www.safekids.com/child_safety.htm

Larry Magid, syndicated columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*, offers tips for becoming street smart about the Web.

FamiliesConnect

<http://www.ala.org/I/CONN/familiesconnect.html>

Created by the American Association of School Librarians, this site is designed for families to learn about the Internet together. Includes online classes about Internet basics, safety, and other tips.

The Parents' Guide to the Information Superhighway

<http://www.childrenspartnership.org/bbar/pbpg.html>

A comprehensive look at the information superhighway and what parents should know to help their children use it safely and wisely, created by The Children's Partnership. A Spanish version is provided.

American Memory

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ammemhome.html>

Contains documents and historical materials that portray the people and events that have made our nation what it is today. From the Library of Congress collection.



Just For Fun

700 + Amazing, Spectacular, Mysterious, Wonderful Web Sites for Kids and the Adults Who Care About Them

<http://www.ala.org/parentspage/greatsites>

This is the largest collection of children's sites in cyberspace. This site includes links to online resources for fun and learning reviewed and organized by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association.

Comics.com!

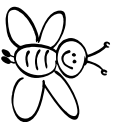
<http://www.unitedmedia.com/comics>

Comics.com! is designed for children who love comics and cartoons. Catch up on your favorite comic strip characters, see what they are doing on the Internet, and learn about the artists who created them.

FunBrain.com

<http://www.funbrain.com>

Great fun! These learning games are organized by age and are the Internet's more advanced cousin to old-fashioned flash cards.



Museums and Interesting Places to Visit

These are just a few sites to begin your exploration on the Web. Most sites include links to other interesting places to visit.

Kids' Castle

<http://www.kidscastle.si.edu>

The Smithsonian Institution's site for kids offers an interactive look at the museum's treasures. It's bright, colorful, and lots of fun.

The Exploratorium

<http://www.exploratorium.edu>

The science museum in San Francisco has electronic versions of hands-on exhibits such as exploring the science of hockey, tracking severe storms, and dissecting a cow's eye.

Franklin Institute Science Museum

<http://sln.fi.edu/tfi/welcome.html>

A wealth of fun, educational, and exciting information from the famed Philadelphia museum. Visit the online exhibits. Educational "hotlists" offer valuable homework connections.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for Kids

<http://www.nasa.gov/kids.html>

Find out how to get photos from space, see a launch, and more on this out-of-this-world site designed for kids.

Parents' Guide to the Internet

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/internet>

The U.S. Department of Education offers suggestions on how parents can help children tap into the wonders of the Internet while safeguarding them from its potential hazards.



Children's Search Tools

These search tools are designed to help children navigate the Web.

KidsClick!

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!>

This Web search engine was created by a team of librarians to provide access to the best the Internet has to offer kids of all ages. Gives reading levels for search results and can search topics by reading level.

Ask Jeeves for Kids

<http://www.ajkids.com/>

A Web search tool that allows children to ask questions in everyday language. Also includes good links on how to navigate the Web.

Yahooligans!

<http://www.yahooligans.com/>

Designed for children ages 7 to 12. All sites are selected by the Yahoo! staff.

Kid's Search Tools

<http://www.rcls.org/ksearch.htm>

This site, maintained by the Ramapo Catskill Library System, brings together a variety of search tools for children at a single location.



Homework Help and Research Tools

These Web sites provide a sample of the variety of sites available to help students in all school subjects.

50 States of the United States

<http://www.50states.com/>

This site features all the help any student would need to write a state report.

Ask an Expert

<http://njnie.dl.stevens-tech.edu/askanexpert.html>

An excellent resource for locating experts willing to respond to questions. This site is part of the Center for Improved Engineering & Science Education (CIESE).

Ask Dr. Math

<http://forum.swarthmore.edu/dr.math/>

A comprehensive math site searchable by grade level covering elementary school math through college.

Homework Center

<http://www.multnomah.lib.or.us/lib/homework/>

The Homework Center contains sites that concentrate on K-12 homework subjects. Resources on this site are reviewed and maintained by librarians from the Multnomah County Library.

Information Please Kids' Almanac

<http://kids.infoplease.com>

Start surfing this site when you type a word or phrase you are interested in. You can also look up interesting facts about dates.

Internet Public Library Youth Division

<http://www.ipl.org/youth>

Part of the Internet Public Library Collections, this site was designed for children ages 4-11. Includes an online storytime, "Dr. Internet," and a large "Dewey Decimal Collection" of sites.

<http://www.ipl.org/teen>

The Internet Public Library also has a site designed just for teenagers.

KidsConnect

<http://www.ala.org/ICONN/AskKC.html>

Online question and answer service for kids from kindergarten through high school. Sponsored by the American Association of School Librarians.

Science Fair Project Resource Guide

<http://www.ipl.org/youth/projectguide>

An excellent resource from the Internet Public Library that links kids to all sorts of resources for their projects.