

Information and Communication Technology



“ICT includes everything which allows us to get information, to communicate with each other or to have an effect on the environment using electronic or digital equipment. ICT is more than computers”.

(Siraj-Blatchford) 9

Smile!

Using a digital camera is a really quick and immediate way to record experiences with and by the children. However if this isn't possible then children can use a Polaroid camera which they can still control and operate, and it is instant!

Techno Disco

Use a dance mat to get ICT moving! 'Funky Foot Prints' (Early Learning Centre) is great fun for noisy toes!

Make it Big!

We are fortunate enough to have an interactive white board. The children sign-in on this sometimes and use it for all types of mark making. They really enjoyed recording animal prints on it with the pens and then using clip art. We were able to find pictures of the animals to go with the prints.

Space Music

We set up the imaginative play area as a space centre, which gave lots of opportunities for using ICT in play. We also put in a music keyboard. The children had a wonderful time using the keyboard to make space-like music, alien sounds and rocket noises.

Pixie Story

We wanted to use more story themes with ICT. So we decided to dress up our pixie as the very hungry caterpillar – the children had some wonderful ideas and enjoyed doing this. We set out paintings of the food the caterpillar ate in the hall. The children then had to control the caterpillar to visit all the food in the same order as the story.



“It is vital that children are equipped with the ability to take part in the future world, and have access to play at these experiences which will foster a deep understanding of how to use ICT and how it impacts on everyday life”.

(Siraj-Blatchford) 9

What's the Story in Balamory?

We based our springtime topic on 'Balamory' from BBC Television. We had several play areas based on different characters and their homes. One of the activities the children enjoyed was using the BBC website based on Balamory. Children accessed the site and enjoyed working on it but also related it to their imaginative play by dressing up and re-enacted some of the games and activities on the web site.

Role Play Ideas:

Wherever possible Role play can be enhanced with ICT equipment. We have taken three of the most popular recurring role play areas and added a 'twist' of ICT!

Baby Clinic

- Thermometer
- Scales/digital
- Computer to make appointments
- Digital camera
- Notices made by children on computer
- Bottle warmer
- Washing machine, drier
- Telephones
- Intercom
- Baby activity centres
- Cot toys with bells and buzzers
- Video for parents
- Interactive books
- Talking photo album
- Music keyboard
- Tape recorder, taped stories
- Coffee machine
- Microwave
- CCTV
- Baby monitors
- Electronic mobiles
- Vibrating teething rings
- Projectors
- Fibre optic lights
- Sensory toys
- Teddies with recordable messages
- Touch sensitive table lights

Emergency Services

- Pre-visit for discussion
- Kitchen/rest room area/cell/control room
- Telephones, landlines and mobiles
- Answer phone for 999 call
- Fire engine/police cars
- Computer for logging visit, call
- Old calculator/e-pads
- Close circuit TV
- Traffic: speed camera
- Parking meter, tickets
- Roamer in town setting
- Music keyboard
- Torches
- Digital camera
- Tape recorders

- Sirens and lights, switches, model emergency vehicles, turn outside bikes into emergency vehicles
- Alarms, pressure pads, circuits
- Digital car thermometer
- Clocks, watches, stopwatches
- Remote control cars: get car to teddy and bring to hospital, time it
- Pixie, get from police station to scene of crime, 3 Bears house, 3 little pigs

Café

- Bikes in garden changed to delivery vehicles with walkie talkies
- Use publishing program for Menu, photo with word, logos and signs
- Drive through with walkie talkies, karaoke machine for tannoy
- Design meal/food on computer
- Calculator, egg timer
- Swipe cards, barcode scanner for bottles of drink
- At the café software
- Search web for decorations linked to a theme e.g. Chinese Take Away
- Remote control waiter
- Microwave, dishwasher, cooker, kettle etc...
- Digital scales, digital Clock
- Telephone, answer phone
- CD Player, tape recorder for background music
- Till, Chip and Pin machine
- PC 'Internet café'
- Clocking in and out
- Doorbell for entry and exit
- Photocopier, OHP, to display menus
- Digital camera, video camera, for real images

Resource links:

CD: 'Learning and teaching using ICT' DFES Sept 2004 ref DFES 0384 – 2 – 4 (tel: Prologistics: 0845 60 22260, email: dfes@prolog.uk.com)

ICT support team: Beaumanor Hall: Tel: 01509 891241 Louise Cook Email: lcook@leics.gov.uk (Team has 'techi-tot' boxes which can be borrowed full of ICT play based equipment. Also role play theme boxes) www.leics.gov.uk/lgfl navigate to ICT support.

"Appropriate ICT can encourage a great deal of purposeful and exploratory play. Among other things it can encourage discussion, creativity, problem-solving, risk-taking and flexible thinking. This can all be achieved in a play-centred and responsive environment".

(Siraj-Blatchford) 9

Digital Dough

Use the microwave with the children to make play dough.

Magic Doors

Visit a shop/library with automatic doors. Children will love making the 'magic' doors work.

Treasure!

Use a metal detector to find metal objects in sand and substance play.

Bar Codes

When setting up a role play shop, the children know it is important to make sure that items for sale have bar codes on. Although you can buy them, the children enjoy making their own and sticking them on.

Hole in the Wall

Take the children to a cash point machine. It's useful for seeing ICT in action, but also explores the use of number and keeping some numbers as a private password.

"Experience with ICT should be woven into the many experiences contributing to children's development in their early years".

(Siraj-Blatchford) 9

Mood Music

We use a CD player for background music in the setting. The children have learnt to use it, and can change and programme which music tracks we listen to.

Signing in - Singing in

We put a tape recorder and microphone on the carpet area, so children could sign 'themselves in' by saying their names. Later on an adult played back the recording and scribed the names on a sheet of paper. This enabled the children to use all the function buttons on the machine.

Text Lessons

Texting can be quite familiar to some children. Sending a text with them is a valuable way to find out how much children know and can do with ICT.

