

# Communication & Computers



Communication has been rapidly changing over the past 10 years – mainly with the wide spread use of the computer. During our communication session we:

- Discussed how communication has changed over the years
- Discussed the power of using the right question (Appreciative Inquiry)
- Conducted interviews using appreciative inquiry
- Discussed how to communicate with your child
- Discussed to use computers as a communication tool
- Reviewed the main parts and functions of a computer
- Learned the basics of word processing through hands-on computer training

Some ideas, to try out with your children, that you wanted to share with others follow.....

**#1 this activity will teach:** how to use the computer to make an invitation



**resources needed:** Computer, printer

**skills needed:** Computer skills

**activity:** My son and I created an invitation to his grandmother's birthday celebration. I used the method that I learned at the computer workshop to type specifics for the celebration, such as time, place, date, event, and search for and insert pictures into the document from the clip art available on the computer. I also showed him how to change the font style and size and how to print out the invitations. He really enjoyed this!

**hints:** Have the family make invitations for other special events.

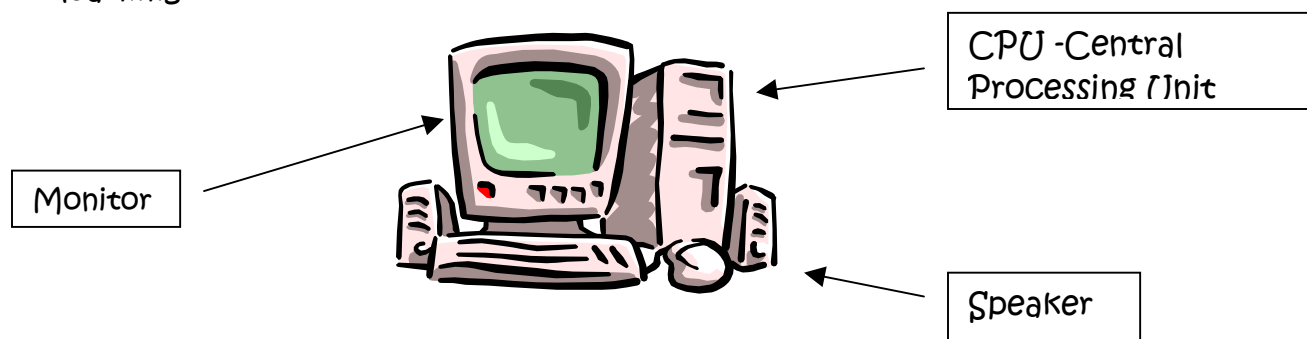
**#2 this activity will teach:** parts of a computer

**resources needed:** picture of a computer, Computer (optional)

**skills needed:** personal knowledge of the computer parts and what they do

**activity:** Have your kids look at a picture of a computer and match the names of the parts with the correct part on the diagram. They should fill in as much as they know. You can review each day or week and give them a blank sheet to match names with pictures every day or week until they are familiar with the parts of a computer.

**hints:** You may want to start slowly by just showing a few parts at a time, then add a new part each day. Have them teach others as they are learning.





**#3 this activity will teach:** how to create journal pages on the computer

**resources needed:** computer, paper

**skills needed:** basic word processing skills

**activity:** Open a word processing program on the computer. Create a title for your journal. Highlight the title and enlarge font size to 22 (depending on font choice). Insert a number for each line, then draw lines across the page for each number. Once the entire page is complete, save the document and print several copies. Xerox copies can be made if additional journal pages are needed.

**hints:** This will work if you are going to handwrite in your journal, but the lines will move if you enter your comments on the computer. To write in your journal on the computer, create a table. You may want to add the date at the top of each page.

My Journal
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

**#4 this activity will teach:** basic computer skills and build proficiency in other subject areas

**resources needed:** computer, educational software, printer

**skills needed:** basic keyboarding and computer skills

**activity:** I taught my children basic computer skills such as how to turn the computer on and off, how to operate a mouse, and how to open and close programs. I bought them reading, math, and Brain Buster software that gives them a chance to practice and learn the skills they are learning

or are going to learn in school. The software I purchased challenges their skills, helping them to improve their proficiency while still making it fun.

hints: You may want to swap these software programs with your friends who have children or check other ones out at the library.



#5 this activity will teach:  
communicate with your kids

a visual way to

resources needed: stickers

skills needed: identification, classification

activity: When my children were little and I was sick, I used to put Mr. Yuck stickers on all my medications and potentially dangerous tools I took my medications with. They knew that if they saw a Mr. Yuck sticker on something they were not to touch or play with that item. You can start with two sets of stickers that represent different things, such as one set can go on items that they should not touch. These may be on medications, cleaning fluids and other things that could be dangerous. They might also want to put stickers on some of their things that they don't want anyone else to touch, such as a favorite toy or tape.

hints: This could be a wonderful opportunity to teach them to first identify things that they shouldn't touch, then let them put Mr. Yuck stickers on those items. That way you could discuss each item and help them better understand why they shouldn't touch it.





# Resources

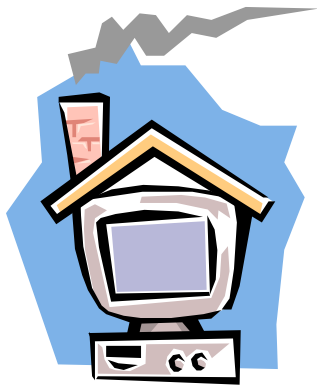
## written materials

Computers for Dummies  
Computers for Idiots



## websites

[www.kidscanlearncomputers.org](http://www.kidscanlearncomputers.org)  
[www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)  
[www.dell.com](http://www.dell.com)  
[www.imaginechicago.org](http://www.imaginechicago.org)  
[www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org)  
[www.kidscanlearncomputers.org](http://www.kidscanlearncomputers.org)



## people to talk to

- teachers
- friends
- computer stores

