



Software Update Reviews

The Institute for School Innovation has selected 29 new software programs for inclusion in the *CHILD Planning Guides* software correlation updates. Numerous programs were reviewed and rated on a 5-point scale using the following criteria:

- ☆☆☆☆☆ Interactive
- ☆☆☆☆☆ Engaging
- ☆☆☆☆☆ Multiple Activities
- ☆☆☆☆☆ Multiple Levels
- ☆☆☆☆☆ Higher Level Thinking
- ☆☆☆☆☆ Bookmark Feature
- ☆☆☆☆☆ Management Features
- ☆☆☆☆☆ Correlated with Standards
- ☆☆☆☆☆ Technical Quality

The 29 titles featured on the following pages achieved the highest composite ratings. Most are available in Macintosh and Windows CD format. Some titles are browser based and available by subscription. Check with the publishers for exact prices and availability of classroom packs, network versions, and other features

The **CHILD Software Correlation Guide** lists all software correlated with Project CHILD, as well as publisher contact information. This document is available on our Web site. **CHILD Information Network Subscribers** also receive detailed correlations for specific learning objectives for each updated title herein. Contact the Institute for ordering information.

Institute for School Innovation, Inc.

PO Box 13296

Tallahassee, FL 32317

850-671-3706

800-940-6985

staff@ifsi.org

www.ifsi.org

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2005 Software Correlations

Titles Reviewed and Correlated

Primary Reading

Curious George	(Houghton Mifflin.)	PR
Imagination Station	(I-Station.com)	PR
Plumo	(Micro-Intel, Inc.)	PR
Software-ABC World	(Micrograms)	PR
Sound Activities & Sound Stories	(Oxford/ Tool Factory, Inc.)	PR

Primary Writing

Create it with Kidspiration	(VISIONS)	PW
Kid Pix Deluxe (Projects for the Classroom)	(Tech Companion)	PW
Photo Kit Junior	(APTE, Inc.)	PW
Picture Power/Pix Writer/Picture It	(Slater Software, Inc.)	PW
Super Spell	(Tool Factory, Inc.)	PW

Primary Math

Bucket and Spade	(Sherston/Tool Factory, Inc.)	PM
Charlie Chimps Big Modeling Party	(Sherston/Tool Factory, Inc.)	PM
Fizzy's First Numbers & Number Skills	(Sherston/Tool Factory, Inc.)	PM
Sticky Bear Math I Deluxe	(Optimum Resource Inc)	PM
What's the Time Mr. Wolf?	(Sherston/Tool Factory, Inc.)	PM

Intermediate Reading

Coin Climb I & II	(Coin Ed Products)	IR
Fair Voyage	(Arrow Ed Products)	IR
Imagination Station	(I-Station.com)	IR
What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?	(Scholastic)	IR
Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus?	(Scholastic)	IR

Intermediate Writing

Chuck Wagon Bill's Language Skills	(Micrograms)	IW
Digital Photo Activity Kit	(APTE, Inc.)	IW
Scholastic Keys	(Tom Snyder Productions)	IW
Tool Factory Workshop	(Tool Factory, Inc.)	IW
Writers Companion	(VISIONS)	IW

Intermediate Math

Graph Club 2.0	(Tom Snyder)	IM
Math Essentials	(Sunburst)	IM
Math Arena	(Sunburst)	IM
Micrograms Software Showcase	(Micrograms)	IM
The Quarter Mile Math	(Barnum Software)	IM

Curious George (Houghton Mifflin)

☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, and Correlated with Standards**

☆☆☆ **Multiple Levels, Higher Level Thinking, Provides Feedback, and Technical Quality**

Reviewer's Notes: "Students join Curious George as he hunts down circles, targets triangles and has the time of his life with patterns shapes and letters. Ties in math skills as well. Especially designed for active learners. Each activity requires the listening skills and critical thinking skills that build a foundation for reading. Children can explore at his or her own pace."

Imagination Station (Web-based)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Higher Level Thinking and Management Features. Interactive, Engaging, Provides Feedback, Bookmark Features, Correlated With Standards, and Technical Quality**

Reviewer's Notes: "This highly engaging program received the highest accolades. I-station helps students master the five reading strands through captivating and engaging activities, while developing their phonological and phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. It is built upon an integrated and strategic approach to developing literacy in young children."

Plumo (Micro-Intel, Inc.)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Provides Feedback**

☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, Multiple Levels, Higher Level Thinking, Bookmark Features, and Correlated With Standards**

Reviewer's Notes: "Plumo is a charming parrot who guides children through their discoveries of the world. The animals give the children directions as they develop their cognitive skills such as observation and classification. Math skills such as counting and logic are also targeted. Students are encouraged and given the correct answer when needed."

ABC World (Micrograms)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Engaging and Technical Quality, Interactive, Multiple Activities, Multiple Levels, Higher Level Thinking, Provides Feedback, Bookmark Features, Management Features, and Correlated With Standards**

Reviewer's Notes: "ABC World engages children in reading readiness activities that help them develop visual discrimination, letter recognition, vocabulary and comprehension. ABC World allows students to focus on and tackle specific, reachable goals. Exceptional technical quality."

Sound Activities and Sound Stories (Oxford /Tool Factory, Inc.)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Provides Feedback, Multiple Activity**

☆☆☆☆ **Multiple Levels, Higher Level Thinking, Correlated With Standards, and Technical Quality**

Reviewer's Notes: " Young children will be motivated to learn basic reading skills through these two highly engaging and interactive programs. Students are engaged in activities that develop phonological awareness, and listening skills. The animated activities teach children to hear and identify sounds, recognize letters, read and spell words."

Primary Writing (K-2)

Create it with Kidspiration (VISIONS, Technology in Education)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, Multiple Levels, Higher Level Thinking, and Correlated with Standards**

☆☆☆☆ **Provides Feedback, Bookmark Features, Management Features, and Technical Quality**

Reviewer's Notes: "Create It with Kidspiration includes tutorials and activities that can be used with Kidspiration software. The tutorials and activities help students gain an understanding of how to organize and develop their own graphs, charts, and diagrams. This program gives teachers more ways to incorporate Kidspiration into the curriculum."

Kid Pix Deluxe (Tech Companion)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Multiple Activities, Engaging, Management Features, and Technical Quality**

☆☆☆ **Interactive, Provides Feedback, Higher Level Thinking, and Correlated Standards**

Reviewer's Notes: "Templates are provided for six lessons per grade level (K-6). The templates cover material in language arts, math, social studies, and science. This program allows students to complete activities in a fun and challenging way. The templates allow students to be creative with the assignments and make them their own."

Photo Kit Junior (APTE, Inc.)

☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, Provides Feedback, and Management Features**

☆☆☆ **Multiple Levels, Higher Level Thinking, Correlated with Standards, and Technical Quality**

Reviewer's Notes: "Photo Kit Junior is a program that focuses on writing skills through the use of visuals. "Ani" takes students through the process to complete stories, create puppet shows, participate in an art center, and numerous other activities. There are thirty-one users available, so that each student can select their own animal mascot to save their work and go back and complete later. There are many levels- from matching pictures to completing a book.

Picture Power Pack/ Pix Writer/Picture It (Slater Software, Inc.)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, Multiple Levels, and Provides Feedback**

☆☆☆ **Higher Level Thinking, Bookmark Features, Management Features, Correlated With Standards, and Technical Quality**

Reviewer's Notes: "Picture Power Pack includes Picture It and PixWriter. This is a valuable and easy to use word processing program to assist emerging readers and writers. By using the program, which pairs a picture with word/concept, teachers can make illustrated storybooks, talking documents, vocabulary cards, and other materials to reinforce the concept to print connection. It has about 3,700 age-appropriate symbol/word pairings and has Spanish capability."

Super Spell (Tool Factory, Inc.)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, Multiple Levels, Provides Feedback, Management Features, and Technical Quality**

☆☆☆☆ **Higher Level Thinking, Bookmark Features, and Correlated w/ Standards**

Reviewer's Notes: "Super Spell offers seven different beach activities that range from spelling three letter words to harder multi-syllabic words. Students are able to work at their own pace. Teachers are able to generate word lists to use in the seven fun activities."

Primary Mathematics (K-2)

Bucket and Spade (Sherston/Tool Factory, Inc.)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, Higher Level Thinking, Provides Feedback, and Management Features**

☆☆☆☆ **Bookmark Features, Correlated with Standards, and Technical Quality**

Reviewer's Notes: "An engaging beach theme with two interactive hosts makes this title appealing to young children. Activities focusing on both shapes and space properties makes practice of these skills fun and exciting. There is a shape demonstrator activity which can serve as a tutorial for independent learning. Provides consistent feedback and strong management options."

Charlie Chimps Big Modeling Party (Sherston/Tool Factory, Inc.)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, Multiple Levels Higher Level Thinking, Provides Feedback, Correlated With Standards, and Technical Quality**

☆☆ **Bookmark Features and Management Features**

Reviewer's Notes: "This title is the answer to developing problem solving skills in spatial awareness and modeling at the elementary level. With an interactive adventure and seven engaging activities at three teacher controlled levels, Charlie Chimp serves as a guide to help students develop various skills associated with problem solving. Although the title does not offer any student tracking or bookmark features, it can serve as an exploration tool for primary students."

Fizzy's First Numbers & Fizzy's Number Skills (Sherston/Tool Factory, Inc.)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Multiple Activities, Provides Feedback and Correlated with Standards**

☆☆☆☆ **Technical Quality, Management Features, and Higher Level Thinking**

☆☆ **Bookmark Features and Multiple Levels**

Reviewer's Notes: "With inviting music and Fizzy as the students' interactive guide, Fizzy's First Numbers is a great tool for targeting introductory skills in numeration at the primary level. With nine activities corresponding to each number, students acquire brief instruction and continuous practice with each target skill. Fizzy's Number Skills provides the basics in numeration targeting early addition and subtraction, ordering, and comparing numbers at the primary level. The teacher can manage activity levels and number range."

Sticky Bear Math I Deluxe (Optimum Resource, Inc.)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Higher Level Thinking,, Management Features, Correlated With Standards, Multiple Activities, and Technical Quality**

☆☆☆ **Interactive and Engaging**

☆ **Bookmark Features**

Reviewer's Notes: "Sticky Bear Math is a great title for covering both numeration and operation skills at the primary level. Providing consistent feedback and supplemental reproducible worksheets, the program serves as a great tool for both individual and whole group instruction. The program also provides differentiated instruction to target auditory, visual, and kinesthetic learners."

What's the Time Mr. Wolf? (Sherston/Tool Factory, Inc.)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Multiple Activities, Provides Feedback, Bookmark Features, and Correlated With Standards**

☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Higher Level Thinking, and Technical Quality**

☆☆☆ **Multiple Levels**

Reviewer's Notes: "Mr. Wolf serves as a fun, interactive guide while students help repair clocks in his shop. With differentiated difficulty levels and nine different activities, students are engaged and challenged consistently. This title gives the teacher ability to track student progress, set levels, and provide reinforcement of skills through printable worksheets. An interactive clock also makes the title great for whole group or individual teacher guided instruction."

Intermediate Reading (3-5)

Coin Climb I & II (Coin Ed Products)

☆☆☆☆ Management Features, Interactive Multiple Activities, Multiple Levels, Higher Level Thinking, Technical Quality

☆☆☆ Provides Feedback, Bookmark Features, Engaging,, Correlated With Standards

Reviewer's Notes: "Coin Climb I and II creates career awareness for students K-5. Occupations are organized into seven career clusters. This program makes a very good school to work connection for students. Audio prompts assist students in navigating the program and aids in reading and comprehension. This title is part of a three series career awareness program."

Fair Voyage (Arrow Educational Products)

☆☆☆☆ Engaging, Interactive, Multiple Activities, Higher Level Thinking, Technical Quality

☆☆☆ Multiple Levels, Management Features, Provides Feedback, Bookmark Features, Engaging, Correlated With Standards

Reviewer's Notes: "Students will have fun as they visit the Fair with the captain and his cartoon crew. They will learn about: types of sentences, punctuation, synonyms, antonyms, prefixes, suffixes, root words, syllabification, comprehension, and other decoding skills. This program also targets writing narratives, steps in the writing process and much more."

Imagination Station (Web-based)

☆☆☆☆ Higher Level Thinking and Management Features. Interactive, Engaging, Provides Feedback, Bookmark Features, Correlated With Standards, and Technical Quality

Reviewer's Notes: "This highly engaging program received the highest accolades. I-station helps students master the five reading strands through captivating and engaging activities, while developing their phonological and phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. It is built upon an integrated and strategic approach to developing literacy in children. Appropriate for third graders and students in need of more instruction."

What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin? (Scholastic)

☆☆☆☆ Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, Multiple Levels, Technical Quality, and Management Features

☆☆☆ Higher Level Thinking, Provides Feedback, Bookmark Features, and Correlated with Standards

Reviewer's Notes: "Students read and listen about the life of Ben Franklin. What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin? is part of Scholastics Curriculum Connections Series. The Learning Cube offers video-based lessons, narrated text-based lessons, writing prompts and fun critical thinking games."

Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus? (Scholastic)

☆☆☆☆ Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, Multiple Levels, Technical Quality, and Management Features

☆☆☆ Higher Level Thinking, Provides Feedback, Bookmark Features, and Correlated with Standards

Reviewer's Notes: "Students read and listen about the life of Christopher Columbus. Where do you think you're going, Christopher Columbus? is part of the Scholastics Curriculum Connections Series. The Learning Cube offers video-based lessons, narrated text-based lessons, writing prompts and fun critical thinking games."

Intermediate Writing (3-5)

Chuck Wagon Bill's Language Skills (Micrograms)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Interactive and Correlated with Standards**

☆☆☆☆ **Engaging and Technical Quality**

Reviewer's Notes: "This is an outstanding program that allows intermediate level students practice with some of the most common grammar, punctuation, and capitalization rules. It is very interactive for the students and teachers. The characters are fun for the students, and the teacher is able to track how each student is doing on each section."

Digital Photo Activity Kit (APTE, Inc.)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities and Multiple Levels**

☆☆☆☆ **Bookmark Features, Management Features, Correlated with Standards, and Technical Quality**

☆☆☆ **Higher Level Thinking, Provides Feedback**

Reviewer's Notes: "This is a fantastic program to motivate students to be creative with their writing. They are able to easily use their own digital pictures for their projects. Students start working in one of six "centers" - Travel Center, Special Events, Craft Corner, Movie Maker, Writing Center, and Picture Games. With each center, students choose different activities that can be used not only for writing, but for reading, social studies, science, and math. This is a program that will be used over and over again in the classroom!"

Scholastic Keys (Tom Snyder Productions)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Correlated with Standards, Multiple Activities**

☆☆☆ **Technical Quality, Higher Level Thinking and Provides Feedback**

n.a **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Levels, Bookmark Features, and Management Features**

Reviewer's Notes: "This software is a children's version of Microsoft Office's basic components. It uses picture buttons to help make word processing and desktop publishing easier for elementary students when using Word, Excel, and PowerPoint."

Tool Factory Workshop (Tool Factory, Inc.)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Multiple Levels, Higher Level Thinking, and Bookmark Features**

☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, Management Features, and Correlated with Standards**

☆☆☆ **Provides Feedback**

Reviewer's Notes: "This is a great word processing program that will be very familiar for the students if they have ever used computers at home or school. For all students, they are able to learn various office programs such as how to make a database and a spreadsheet, in a student-friendly way. These are skills that they will be able to use all throughout their schooling!"

Writers Companion (VISON, Technology in Education)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Multiple Levels, Bookmark Features, Management Features, and Technical Quality**

☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, Higher Level Thinking, and Correlated with Standards**

n/a **Provides Feedback**

Reviewer's Notes: "Writers Companion is a terrific program that helps your students focus directly on the writing process. All that students have to do is follow the steps with the program that include brainstorming, organizing, sequencing, editing, and finally publishing. There are different methods of organizing, so students are able to find the one that works best for them. Throughout all of the processes there are a variety of tools, including a Web site for students to use."

Intermediate Mathematics (3-5)

Graph Club 2 (Tom Snyder)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, Higher Level Thinking, Correlated With Standards, Multiple Levels, and Technical Quality**

☆☆☆☆☆ **Provides Feedback, Bookmark Features, Management Features,**

Reviewer's Notes: "Graph Club 2.0 uses interactive experiences to focus on problem solving and graphing skills, with a separate map skills component. Students create and compare up to five different graph types to develop essential graphing skills. The innovation of its interaction and relationship to real life experiences will enable teacher to easily engage their students in mastering graphing skills."

Math Arena (Sunburst)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Higher Level Thinking, Provides Feedback, Bookmark Features, Management Features, Correlated With Standards, , Multiple Levels, and Technical Quality**

☆☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities**

Reviewer's Notes: "Provides an interactive sports- related environment filled with engaging activities. There are multiple levels and tons of activities. Teachers can set up a "trimathalon" to meet students' needs targeting a variety of skills. Topics include graphing, measurement, number exploration, and geometry."

Math Essentials (Sunburst)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Provides Feedback and Bookmark Features**

☆☆☆☆☆ **Higher Level Thinking,, Management Features, Correlated With Standards, Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, and Technical Quality**

☆☆☆ **Multiple Levels**

Reviewer's Notes: "Math Essentials has a fun cave man theme with engaging graphics and adventure. The program provides immediate feedback and good management features. Gives audio/visual directions, allows students to play games in an adventure/story mode and is great practice for addition and subtraction skills from single to multiple digits."

Micrograms Software Showcase (Micrograms)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Multiple Levels**

☆☆☆☆☆ **Interactive, Engaging, Multiple Activities, Management Features, and Correlated with Standards**

☆☆☆ **Higher Level Thinking, Provides Feedback, Bookmark and Technical Quality**

Reviewer's Notes: "This software offers eight math programs beginning with basic skills and going on through the intermediate levels. Numeration, Number Theory, Fractions, Operations and Problem Solving are all covered. The teacher management components work great to make this an effective classroom tool for mathematics practice."

The Quarter Mile Math (Barnum Software)

☆☆☆☆☆ **Management Features, Interactive, Engaging, Management Features,**

☆☆☆☆☆ **Correlated with Standards and Technical Quality**

Reviewer's Notes: "Students race their stallions or cars as a motivational strategy to compete against their own score. Quarter Mile Math is an interactive piece of software that focuses on remediation, reinforcement, and review for a variety of skills. It is an invaluable classroom resource because it covers a broad range of mathematical topics and will keep students going back to beat their own score!"