

COMPUTERS AND PRESCHOOLERS

Is there a benefit?

It is generally believed that pre-school language software and apps, chosen carefully and used thoughtfully, can be a useful learning tool for children beyond the toddler stage.

Don't use computers just for the sake of using them. If you can do any computer activity the 'old-fashioned way' with crayon and paper—for example, "Match the letter A with the Apple"—by all means choose crayon and paper.

Don't forget to sit with your young child at the computer. Young children often need an adult to guide them through games, and besides, they like the company!

It is important to limit all screen time: computer, TV and video games, even the educational kind. Computer play should be one of many learning options for your child; in fact, young children will likely spend only a few minutes at the computer at one sitting.



SOME BASIC TIPS FOR CHOOSING APPROPRIATE SOFTWARE AND APPLICATIONS FOR THIS AGE GROUP:

Rotate no more than three high quality programs at any given stage of development.

Programs should be age-appropriate and allow your child to explore and use his imagination. Programs that ask children to give 'right' or 'wrong' answers to questions are not beneficial.

Choose with care: programs should feature engaging graphics and colourful characters (although not necessarily 'commercial' ones). They shouldn't have too much going on either, because that can be distracting to a young child.

Further Reading: How To Choose the Right Apps For Your Preschooler.
Missio, Erik, 2017 www.cbc.ca/parents

