

## Internet and Software

The Internet - World Wide Web - Online connects businesses, universities, libraries, homes, hospitals, etc. (essentially anyone who wants to join). It is accessed with a computer, communications software (Microsoft Explorer or Netscape) and a modem via your phone line or DSL to their website.

### Children and the Internet

As you already know, there are also many inappropriate Internet sites. Several times I've been dumped on one because they buy out of date URL's (addresses). You must be with your children and know what they are doing on the Internet at all times! This can't be emphasized enough. There are no guidelines or controls on the overload of information that is out there in cyberspace. Putting blocks on accessing sex, language, or violence sites does not always work. The reason is that many sites I've looked in for health or business related topics are not rated and won't let you there without a password. This makes it difficult to get anywhere. There is additional software that will help with this. The best solution is to be with your child and make it a family learning experience.

The justice department reports that 1 in 4 children are exposed to pornography while exploring the Internet. Filters alone do not work, simply misspelling a word can take you to a site where you can't get out. The greatest danger to children is found in chat rooms where predators are lurking. 1 in 5 children have been solicited by predators in chat rooms. Monitor your child's time on the Internet, install controls and filters, keep computers in a family area (not the child's bedroom), warn children of the dangers, know the lingo (i.e. ASL = age, sex, location) and teach them to never provide personal information.

### Homeschool and the Internet

Each of the main on-line services offer education sites, kids only libraries and college courses available. You can download books, search the Smithsonian, access National Geographic, visit the bottom of the ocean or the moon and many other things. Going on-line is not a necessity to successful homeschooling nor is it always the "wonderful" experience some have made it out to be. I've heard of good experiences and horror stories about children and the Internet. Life will certainly go on and most likely be less complicated for you if you are not involved on the Internet if

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that is your choice. I just want you to understand that you can homeschool without the Internet. Here are some specifically homeschool Internet sites we know of, but have no experience with!

### **Adventist Virtual Learning Network**

[www.avln.org](http://www.avln.org)

Adventist K-20+ education.

### **Camp Internet**

[www.campinternet.net](http://www.campinternet.net) online homeschooling

### **Central Connecticut Adventist Virtual School**

[www.adventist-home-school.com](http://www.adventist-home-school.com)

Elementary 5-10 and high school. Online schooling, personal emails and chat room sessions.

**“Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.”**

Philippians 4:8

Daily Grammar Lesson

Via email at [www.wordplace.com](http://www.wordplace.com)

### **Edanywhere.com**

### **E-TAP**

(Teaching Assistance Program), [www.eta.org](http://www.eta.org)

Math tutorial site for middle and high school mathematics.

### **FISH – Families Independently Schooling at Home**

[www.anobadiah.com](http://www.anobadiah.com)

Hundreds of Internet links to sites of interest to homeschool families. I can't vouch for all the links but there were a lot of them!

### **HomeSchool Family Network**

[www.homeschoolfamilies.net](http://www.homeschoolfamilies.net)

Unlimited internet access, \$19.95 per month, family filtering protector, free family web page, seven email addresses, 24/7 customer support, domain of (your name)@homeschoolfamilies.net






### **NovaNET**

[www.nn.com/campus](http://www.nn.com/campus)

Campus offers a free service with educational lessons, homework supplement, academic and vocational topics. Visit their website: to download the software.

**On-line Universities**

These are an innovative use of the Internet. I've heard that there are 200,000 older students spending their spare time getting degrees on the Internet. They read lectures, take tests, and email their professors receiving more one-on-one time with professors than if they were on a campus. It can be expensive, but you are paying for the convenience of staying home and doing it in your spare time. This is definitely an alternative for homeschoolers. To some of the universities offering on-line universities, check out these websites:

-  [www.intered.com](http://www.intered.com)
-  [www.atlantic.edu](http://www.atlantic.edu)
-  [www.iStudySmart.com](http://www.iStudySmart.com)
-  [www.Bakeronline.com](http://www.Bakeronline.com)
-  [www.jonesinternational.edu](http://www.jonesinternational.edu)

**Willoway CyberSchool**

[www.willoway.com](http://www.willoway.com)

Accredited Internet school for grades 7-12. "Teach computer-related technologies, giving homeschoolers a competitive edge in today's technically oriented society."

**Work Reference**

[www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com) Translate words to and from English, Spanish, German, Italian, and French.

**Email**

If you would like to have an email address without having an Internet account, Juno is the service you need. Call them at 800/654-JUNO for a disk. To get the free service, you are sent advertisement banners that you are of course, free to ignore.

Email Lists are groups of people discussing issues and sharing their experiences. There are recipe, health, business, science experiments, word of the day, and many more lists you can join. To join the *AHE* Email List with over 200 Adventist homeschool moms, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/AHE-List>

For an email address that also witnesses try Yourname@SDA.net and never change your email address again no matter who your Internet service provider is. This is an Internet based email service and you access your

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email from anywhere Internet service is available. It is a free service to Adventists, sign up at: [www.sda.net](http://www.sda.net) click -mail sign up.

### **Weblog or Blog**

The latest thing to do on the Internet is to blog. This is a site where you share your thoughts, ideas, pictures or anything else you want to with anyone else on the Internet who cares to look. The largest homeschooling blog site is [www.homeschoolblogger.com](http://www.homeschoolblogger.com) with over 5000 families' blogging their learning experiences with others. Our daughter Aarika's blog is – kittykatgirl.

## Learning Software

### **A+ Learning System Software**

(The Sycamore Tree, \$69.95 each level/subject)

Reading 1-8, Vocabulary 1-8, Language 1-9, Grammar and Writing 1-9, Spelling 1-7, Mathematics 1-12, Science 1-8, Chemistry, Biology, Social Studies 1-8, Civics, History, Economics, Government.

Instructions are read to the child, so it would be good for audio learners and those struggling readers. This is computer learning and recommended for a few subject areas not as a total curriculum.

### **Learning 2000 Lifetime Library**

[www.learning2000.com](http://www.learning2000.com)

Educational software on CD-ROM with core learning skills for grades 4-12. Take a placement test, study the lesson and take the final test in reading, writing, mathematics and other subjects. Developed by McGraw Hill for the military and business corporations, who paid \$8,500 per set, seeking to improve the knowledge of their employees. Includes an online dictionary (click any word and get a definition); automated record keeping; Math 1,2,3, Algebra 1, 2, core skills, reading 1, 2; spelling; grammar; sharpens skills while teaching literature, science (no evolution) and history from 111 books; 23 GB instruction; 2,200 minutes of video on 47 CD-ROM's available complete for \$599.

### **Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing**

(Software suppliers)

This is one of the most popular and award-winning typing programs available. It is suitable for all ages (5 to adult), colorful, and fairly interesting. Your current typing skill (or lack thereof) is evaluated at the beginning of the program, and learning modules are custom-tailored by the program to fit each student's individual needs. It is useful for total beginners to experienced typists who need to "brush up." The overwhelming complaint I hear is that you are given a guilt trip if you don't score high enough, or choose to discontinue a lesson.

### **Microsoft Encarta**

A CD-ROM encyclopedia you'll probably get it with a new PC. 41,000 articles, 3,523 media pictures with captions, enlarge capabilities, sounds, and videos such as a baby bird hatching, a bee's dance, an eagle fishing,

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and so many more. Other features include timelines, thesaurus, atlas, songs from other countries and the ability to print out pictures and articles. Some new age views and of course theories of evolution. Search with your children.

### **Pro-One Software**

Available at many software dealers, or from Solid Rock Software (see suppliers).

"School type" software for Biology, Pre-algebra, Algebra, Grammar, Spanish etc.

### **Robinson Self-Teaching Homeschool Curriculum**

P. O. Box 1279, Cave Junction, OR 97523.

Advertised as "A complete course of study for grades 1-12." This set of CD-ROM's includes: course of study, reading comprehension and vocabulary examinations, 120,000 page library in computer image format, 1911 Encyclopedia Britannia, 1913 Noah Webster's Dictionary, 6000 word Vocabulary Teacher, physical science, program and broad essential knowledge of history, literature, economics and general studies, progress exams. \$195 for the 20 CD-ROM set plus coupons for discounts on Saxon math books, "the only other materials you need to provide."

You are led to believe that the entire curriculum is on the computer, in reality your children do not use the computer much at all, you print out thousands and thousands of pages of books, which your child is suppose to read for their curriculum. It is estimated that it would cost \$6000.00 in computer paper and printer ink to do this. Many of these books are fiction, and as for the other books, I'd prefer to have them as regular bound books in my home library, not as computer printouts.

My concern here is that this type of teaching (one education for all) doesn't encourage creativity, it doesn't include Learning Projects, there is no one-to-one time or interaction with parent/teacher, and it doesn't take the child's individual talents and interests into account.

### **Sunday Software**

800/678-1948, [www.sundaysoftware.com](http://www.sundaysoftware.com)

Bible-based software, study guides, lesson plans and outlines. Some of the many titles include *The Life of Christ*, *Good Sam the Samaritan* and *The Ten Commandments*.

### **Switched-on Schoolhouse**

Published by Alpha Omega, [www.switched-onschoolhouse.com](http://www.switched-onschoolhouse.com)

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SOS is school curriculum on CD-ROM for grades 3-12. Available as a complete grade package or individual subjects of: science, Bible, history, language arts and math. Other CD-ROM's include a Health Quest unit for grades 4-7, Spanish for ninth grade, State History, and College Planner for 12th graders. Approximately \$275 per grade level.

Basically students read the text, just like a textbook but with video clips, pop-ups and Internet links, then solve problems and take a test. Missed problems are repeated, skipped problems are flagged.

Here's what there is to like about it. The responsibility of choosing curriculum resources is gone, you've spent the money either use this or pay for another curriculum. Everything is computerized for you- lesson plans, record keeping, grading and even communication via email with your child.

Here's what's not to like about it. You are referred to as "teacher" and you have to be comfortable with the computer and figure out initial set up with calendars, assignments, and lesson plans along with all the settings and controls with the program. This program is really no more than a textbook with video and cartoon clips. It is still a one-size fits all education leaving no time for Learning Projects, group learning (which is what families do), and child-led interests. The curriculum contains cartoons and video clips throughout, requires reading of fiction and Internet links. It also uses communication between student and teacher (you and your child) via email, and I don't choose to communicate with my child via the computer and email regarding questions, assignments, lessons, grades and problems. If you don't like this, or think you can recoup your money, realize that you cannot resell this program to anyone as you agree not to when you purchase it. eBay will pull your listing if you try to sell this there.

For a complete curriculum I think it's too much computer time, electronic learning, and detached school type learning. To enhance one subject such as math or language arts, it's a possibility but still with all the drawbacks mentioned above.

### ♥ **Typing Instructor Deluxe**

(Timberdoodle, \$12.00)

Straightforward typing instruction with no dancing animals, wizards or rock music.

Additional titles are listed under subjects.

## Software for Household and Homeschool Organization

### ♥ Homeschool Easy Records for Windows, Data Plus Solutions

9090 Tahoe Lane, Boulder, CO 80301: 888/328-7587; [www.dataplus.biz](http://www.dataplus.biz)

Email: [vdugar@earthlink.net](mailto:vdugar@earthlink.net)

Lesson plans, progress reports, report cards, transcripts, attendance records, grade and time calculations, K-12. An easy to learn program, with in three hours I had an official looking transcript for my daughter which was accepted by Pacific Union College.

Subscribe to HER\_Discuss email list at:

[HER-Discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:HER-Discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

### Homeschool ORGANIZE! for Windows

(The Sycamore Tree)

Lesson plans, charts for chores and themes, weekly planners, menus, etc. \$30

### Money Matters

Christian Financial Concepts, 800/722-1976, [www.cfcministry.org](http://www.cfcministry.org)

Track spending through budgeting, reconcile bank statements, bill reminder, check printing, income and expense summarizing.

### Quicken (Intuit)

A personal and small-business financial record-keeping program, which looks and works a lot like your personal checkbook. It will reconcile bank statements, budget, and generate personal and business reports of many kinds. It is invaluable to our household in keeping our checking account up to date. Use Quicken to teach your children to manage their finances.

### SchoolBook Professional 2001

Casey Harms, 909/389-1538; Email: [C2nl@family.net](mailto:C2nl@family.net)

Keep track of your school records with this full-featured software designed by an Adventist homeschooler. Create customized records of daily activities, books read, field trips etc. \$20 + \$2 S&H.



## Software Suppliers

### Children's Software

[www.ChildrensSoftwareOnline.com](http://www.ChildrensSoftwareOnline.com) Children's Technology Review

### Know Play?

[www.knowplay.com](http://www.knowplay.com)

Software for math, spelling, reading, foreign languages, science and music.

### Learning Company

500 Redwood Blvd., Novato, CA 94947; 800/474-0431;

[www.broderbund.com](http://www.broderbund.com)

Reader Rabbit, Oregon Trail, Liberty's Kids and other educational software.

### Smart Kids Software

[www.SmartKidsSoftware.com](http://www.SmartKidsSoftware.com)

Children's educational software, creativity, grammar, story books, money, science, test preparation, typing and more.

### Solid Rock Software

1382 Maplewood Dr., Long Lake, MN 55356: 612/404-2563;

[www.srsmall.com](http://www.srsmall.com)

Lots of school type software science, math, language, geography, and Bible.

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