Children Website Recommendations

- [http://www.storyplace.org/storyplace.asp](http://www.storyplace.org/storyplace.asp)
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/)

The websites mentioned are interesting, interactive and yet fun. It has a range of activities that are suitable for children of all ages.

For the 0 to 2 years, simple interactive stories can be chosen at their level. For example in the website [http://www.storyplace.org/storyplace.asp](http://www.storyplace.org/storyplace.asp), the story of ‘Five Little Babies’ introduces the different actions which each baby does and this helps your baby or toddler connect himself/herself to the story. It also takes into consideration the short attention span of your child and the story is short and yet interactive.

For children between the ages of 2 years to 3 years who are experimenters and discoverers, the websites provide them with opportunities to play with alphabets and their sounds, interactive stories with an activity associated with the story, sorting colours and shapes as well as identifying colours and shapes etc.

For those between the ages of 4 years to 5 years who are beginning to read and understand that letters are joined together to form words, they can explore these websites to have a better understanding of the different sounds of letters through identifying initial, medial and final sounds of words. This is a strategy which they can use as they try to read words from their story books. Simple math games on number order, number sequence as well as number concept can also be explored through interactive, fun games.

For children 6 years and above, these websites are good especially if they face challenges in understanding sentence constructions, concepts etc. The websites help them have a better understanding through interactive sentence construction games and punctuation games etc. It can also reinforce their concept understanding for numbers and encourage children to do simple addition and subtraction without any stress through interactive games.

Though learning as they play through internet games is a good form of reinforcement for children in their reading skills and concept understanding, we should be mindful that we do not let websites replace the actual learning that can happen in the real world through reading of storybooks and games we used to play as children, which also reinforce reading skills and concept understanding.

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**Jeannette Ling** is a full-time Lecturer at Asian International College. Jeannette worked in the manufacturing industry for nine years before switching to her passion, teaching. She has taught children as young as 18 months up to 6 years old, and considers herself privileged to have had the experience of guiding children through a wide range of developmental milestones.

Jeannette has worked in various functions in the early childhood education sector, from being actively involved in the setup of a centre where she held supervisory positions, to serving as Principal at Learning
Vision from 2007 to 2008. In recent years, Jeannette has chosen to focus on her interest areas of teaching, mentoring and curriculum development and implementation at Odyssey – The Global Preschool @ Wilkinson. Her most recent role is Programme Specialist at Odyssey where her responsibilities include developing programmes (e.g. innovative programmes like Interactive Whiteboard), mentoring and supporting curriculum specialists and trainee curriculum specialists, and events organisation.

Jeannette believes teachers and children are unique and talented in their own ways, and can reach their full potential with appropriate support.

Jeannette earned her Master of Science in Early Childhood Education from Wheelock College. Her areas of research include independent study in education (effects of Interactive Whiteboard) and children and families (effects of reading to preschool children in the home).