A shift in thinking & educating through Instructional Technology!

CEI Newsletter

The Center for Education Innovation at Friends Academy of Dartmouth MA.

Kidspiration—Featured Software this Month

Kidspiration provides a visual cross-curricular workspace for K-5 students. With this software students combine pictures, text, numbers and spoken words to develop vocabulary, word recognition, reading for comprehension, writing and critical thinking skills.

As students make visual connections, they build fundamental skills in all content areas, strengthen reading and writing skills. It may surprise you that Kidspiration is also a valuable tool for math instruction with visual tools build conceptual understanding. Examples for lessons include:

- The use of graphic organizers to express thoughts and explore ideas and relationships.
- Developing stories and descriptions using engaging visual tools to explore new ideas and concepts.
- Color Tiles to count, compare, explore properties of number and operations, and develop computation strategies.
- Pattern Blocks to investigate the properties and attributes of shapes through composition and decomposition. To produce patterns, tessellations, explore similarity and congruence, experiment with symmetry and represent fractions.
- Base Ten Blocks to understand place value and strengthen number sense & introduce students to procedures for operations on multi-digit numbers.
- Fraction Tiles to compare and order fractions and to understand equivalent fractions.
- Fraction Boxes to represent fractions visually & introduce students to improper fractions, mixed numbers and representing word problems.
- Math SuperGroupers as a conceptual building block for word problems.

Search Tool for Grade Level Text Search

The biggest information challenge for the 21st century school is not access to resources but curation of resources. With more than a billion web pages to read through, the task becomes impossible. You need to get the clutter out of the web. Choosito innovates in education by offering a technology solution to the problem of finding resources for the classroom that are right for your students. Its technologically advanced text analysis engine is the result of a multi-year long research effort lead by Dr Eleni Miltsakaki, a linguist, a scientist, and passionate educator. Choosito is supported by the National Science Foundation

As educators, we also strive to instill to your students curiosity and independent learning. Beginning at the upper elementary level development of research skills is critical for students to become independent thinkers, nurture love of discovery and, ultimately, become managers of their own learning. Students learn research skills by gathering, evaluating, and comparing content from relevant resources, not by opening and closing sites. Research is the systematic exploration and understanding of a topic that will naturally enhance the student's ability to solve a related problem or otherwise find truth or enlightened realization. It involved exploring your topic from different points of view. In order to do that, students need to find those resources that will help them explore. With *Choosito* you can identify the most appropriate resources for your students while strengthening their research and problem solving skills.

A Choosito free account enables: Unlimited Web Search results labeled with reading level and theme, limited Library Search (one page of results) labeled with reading level and theme and unlimited Web Search with activated filtering by reading level and theme.

 Pro and class accounts are also available for a small yearly fee. https://www.choosito.com/pricing