



## **Dr. Toy Recommends Inspiration 9 and Kidspiration 3 as Great Tools for Learning on Summer Vacation**

*Childhood Specialist Names Visual Learning Tools as Best Vacation Products for Second Consecutive Year*

**PORTLAND, Ore. – June 8, 2011--** Dr. Toy, a noted child development authority, named Inspiration® 9 and Kidspiration® 3 to her list of “Best Vacation Children’s Products” for the second consecutive year. Created for learners ages 10 and up, Inspiration 9 is the ultimate thinking and learning tool to comprehend, create, communicate and achieve more. Kidspiration 3 is the visual way for young learners ages 4 to 9 to explore and understand words, numbers and concepts.

Steveanne Auerbach, Ph.D., (a.k.a. Dr. Toy) has been a childhood specialist for more than 40 years, and her website, Dr. Toy’s Guide, was the first to evaluate toys and children’s products. The Best Children’s Vacation Products list recognizes innovative products that will help children play and learn at home and while on vacation. They are evaluated for safety, age-appropriateness, design, durability, lasting play value, cultural and ethnic diversity, good transition from home to school, educational value, learning skills, creativity, improvement in the understanding of the community and the world, value for the price and, naturally, fun.

"Our list of best vacation products provides parents with a valuable, free resource for finding fun, engaging products that will keep their children learning over the summer," said Dr. Toy. "Among the best in the educational software world, Inspiration and Kidspiration are great tools for stimulating children's creativity and building their writing and critical-thinking skills this summer, both at home or while traveling."

By representing ideas visually with Inspiration 9, learners can express their creativity, develop new ideas, plan and organize projects and develop clearly written stories and papers. They can also add multimedia impact and personalize their projects by including videos, sound and photos to their projects, and perhaps create a great "what I did on my summer vacation" presentation for back-to-school or explore a topic of personal interest, such as music or creative writing.

This summer, young learners can use Kidspiration supports to strengthen reading and writing skills, build conceptual understanding in math and develop thinking skills across the curriculum. Visually combining pictures, text and spoken words engage children in learning as they build word recognition, vocabulary, comprehension and written expression. With the visual math tools in Kidspiration, children grow math skills and understand key math concepts. Ready-made activities available in Kidspiration help students explore and develop their thinking skills.

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

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"It is a great honor to have Dr. Toy name Inspiration and Kidspiration to her list of best vacation products for the second year in a row," said Mona Westhaver, president and co-founder, Inspiration Software. "When kids spend time in the summer using our visual software tools for personal projects and creative play, their thinking skills stay actively engaged, and they are ready to hit the ground running when school starts in the fall."

For more information about Inspiration Software, visit [www.inspiration.com](http://www.inspiration.com), become a fan on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/InspirationSoftware> or follow on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/InspirationSW>. In addition, educators from around the world can connect and share their passion for learning strategies and education on the company's blog, Thinkspiration, at [www.inspiration.com/blog](http://www.inspiration.com/blog).

***About Inspiration Software, Inc.***

Recognized as the leader in visual thinking and learning, Inspiration Software, Inc.'s award-winning tools, Webspiration Classroom™, Webspiration PRO™, Inspiration, Kidspiration and InspireData®, are based on proven visual learning methodologies that help students think, learn and achieve. With the powerful combination of visual learning and technology, students in grades K-12 learn to clarify thoughts, organize and analyze information, integrate new knowledge and think critically. Founded more than 25 years ago by Donald Helfgott and Mona Westhaver, the company's visual learning tools are used today by more than 25 million students and teachers worldwide.