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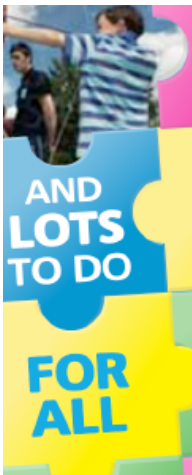
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Win a copy of Kidspiration for your School

If children were the bursars.....

Selecting and procuring resources for schools requires careful planning. Each school's decision maker has a huge responsibility to make well-informed purchases which are not only beneficial to the children's learning experience but also within budget. This is not an easy task!

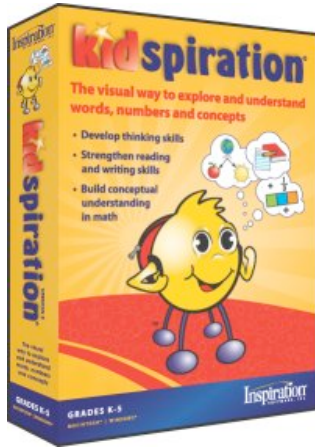


However, what would happen if the children who actually use the resources daily were given the responsibility of procurement? Would they make similar decisions to the school bursar?

Lee Batstone, headteacher and ICT coordinator of Madley Primary School in Hereford, was recently tasked with testing some software. His initial thought was to ask ICT team members to test it, but interestingly, he stopped in his tracks and decided that as it would be the children using the software, surely they should test it first.

'I selected ten pupils from years five and six to test-drive Kidspiration 3 and whilst carrying out the task I contemplated how the results differed to my own, comparing my observations to that of the children and questioning – what if children were the bursars?

Kidspiration 3 is a mind mapping resource designed by Inspiration Software. A traditional technique, mind mapping has been used for many years to help people generate and formulate ideas. The software draws on this concept, providing an inspirational tool for primary school pupils to assist them in articulating, planning and organising their thoughts.



While testing the software I asked the children to consider whether they would buy the software and if so, why.

Perception of the learner

The feedback was positive on the whole, with learners forming well considered and structured opinions. There was great enthusiasm regarding the software's animations - they loved both the auditory and visual capabilities and the ability to hear text read aloud.

I was impressed with the way pupils took into consideration how it would assist others and not only themselves individually. They felt the resource could be used to help the

teacher plan and also considered the needs of different children, commenting that it would be suitable for all abilities. Another point raised was that the resource is simple to use and allows individual and creative thinking.

So what if children really were the bursars?

The children felt empowered and inspired at being asked to input into the decision-making process of their futures. As a well resourced school in terms of ICT, Kidspiration 3 is something we will strongly consider purchasing as it provides some aspects of modelling that are not contained in one package anywhere else.

Both the children and I came to the decision that we would purchase it and we had similar justifications as to why, therefore demonstrating their capability to make educated decisions. The fact that they thought it would assist the teacher was spot on, because as I tested it I thought how I could use it for some school development planning, as I'm currently mind mapping in a book! Teacher planning would be easy with the hundreds of activities that are pre-



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built into the software. The children are trusted to be responsible in their learning and decision making processes, this extends to their astute thoughts regarding purchases which will enhance their learning – we will continue to actively involve the children in the decision making processes in our school.

COMPETITION

Primary Times has teamed up with Inspiration Software® to offer one lucky primary school the chance to win a whole school site licence of its new Kidspiration® 3 resource worth £550.

For a chance to win please answer the following question:

Which three skills does Kidspiration® 3 help to develop?

**[Click here to access the online competition entry form \(registration is required\)](#) for a chance to win or alternatively send your answer on a postcard to:
Primary Times Hereford & Worcester
Second Floor, Richardson House
21/24 New Street
Worcester, WR1 2DP.**

Please note that entries will be passed onto Inspiration Software.

Competition Closes: 27th April 2009

For further information on Inspiration Software's products please visit www.taglearning.com or contact 01474 357 350 or sales@taglearning.com.

About Inspiration Software Inc.

Recognised as the leader in visual thinking and learning, Inspiration Software, Inc., develops and publishes innovative software tools that inspire learners of all ages to brainstorm, organise, plan and create. With more than 15 million users worldwide, the company's award-winning software is revolutionising visual learning in education - inspiring students to develop strong thinking and organisational skills and improve their academic performance. Founded by Donald Helfgott and Mona Westhaver, the company's mission is to support improvements in education and make a positive difference in students' lives by providing software tools that help students learn to think.

For more information on Inspiration Software, please visit the website at www.taglearning.com/inspiration or visit www.inspiration.com/global. Tag Learning is the exclusive UK distributor for Inspiration Software.

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