Rules for Helping Children Use Computers

1. Computers Use = Knowledge + Performance
   • Performance increases learning
2. Short practice sessions are better than long drills
3. Use a skills checksheet
4. “RATS” Read all the screen
5. Use the “On-Line Help”
6. Use these steps for new activities
   • Engage and Excite
   • Explore
   • Explain
   • Elaborate
   • Evaluate
7. Understand the “Magic Number” of 7 +/- 2 in learning tasks
8. Most “Educational” games are teach very little
9. Have children tell you what they are doing as they do it
10. Encourage real work
    • Reports
    • Letters
    • E-Mail
    • Research
    • Budgets
    • Plans
11. Don’t Worry!
    • Pressing keys can not damage hardware
    • Computers are made to be left on
    • There are programs and tricks that can keep children from trashing your files
12. Have your child teach you.