

## 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.