

Learning Centres Learn IT Online

Little's, the Mouse and Me: Lesson 1

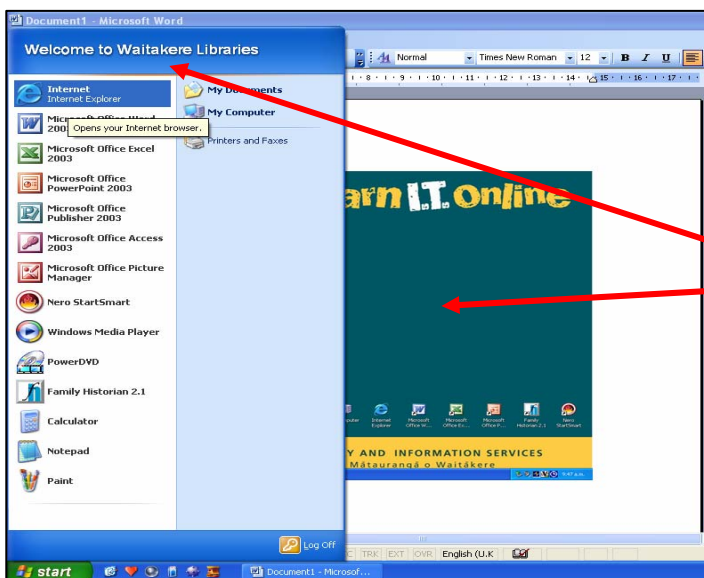
The Internet is a useful tool that has many resources for both children and adults. We can use it to:

- ✓ search for information
- ✓ play games and activities
- ✓ download activities to do offline (such as colouring in)



When we do something on the internet, we say we are doing it **online**.

1. *Start your computer.* You are ready to go onto the Internet once the **desktop** screen appears. If you are in the learning centre you will need to have a **logon id** and/or **password**. Your learning centre coordinator will tell you about this.



2. Double-click on your *Internet Explorer icon* to start your internet access. You can find the icon on your *desk top* or from the *start menu*.
3. This will open your *home page* for the internet. Now we are ready to start using the internet.

When you open Internet Explorer there will already be an **address or URL** in the address bar. To change to a different address click once in the address bar. Type in the new address, hit **Enter** and the new website will then appear.



The following are some websites with appropriate games and activities for younger children. Choose one of the addresses below and type it into the address bar then press **enter**.

<http://www.littledittle.com/>

<http://www.uptoten.com/>

<http://pbskids.org/>

<http://www.thewiggles.com.au/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/children/>

<http://pollypocket.com/>

<http://www.funschool.com/>

<http://www.goobo.com/monster/>

<http://www.nickjr.com/>

Have a look around the websites. The activities on these sites include:

- ✓ Interactive stories
- ✓ Colouring games
- ✓ Educational games of various types



Educational games are often an ideal way for a child to learn motor skills with the mouse and the keyboard. They will learn how to click and move the mouse and to associate what happens onscreen with what they do.

Finding New Websites

The Internet is full of similar websites to those above but it is often difficult to find appropriate sites and activities. You can use a search engine such as Google or Yahoo to search for children's games and activities but this is often inaccurate and you will find your search turns up many sites that are not suitable. You can narrow your search by adding further search terms until you find a manageable list.

Another alternative is to do a search for something your child is interested in, for instance Sesame Street or the Wiggles. Oftentimes the official website or even fansites will have excellent resources and activities that you can do online or offline.

As children can often get restless waiting for you to find a suitable website try and do your search before you take your child online. When you have a suitable site bookmark it so you can return to it – that way you will have a link permanently on your computer.



To do this: visit the website then click *Favourites*, *Add to Favourites*, *OK*. The next time you want to visit the site simply click on the *Favourites* button on your browser then click the link you want to go to!

Other activities on the Computer

The Internet is not the only resource your child can use on the computer. There are many other programmes that your child can enjoy. These range from games that you buy to Paint which comes installed on all computers.

Paint is especially useful. As your child draws a picture they will be developing important mouse skills such as click and dragging.

