

BECTA guidance on effective use of ICT

The British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA) suggested that the effective use of ICT can lead to benefits in terms of:

- greater motivation
 - increased self-esteem and confidence
 - enhanced questioning skills
 - promoting initiative and independent learning
 - improving presentation
 - developing problem solving capabilities
 - promoting better information handling skills
 - increasing 'time on task'
 - improving social and communication skills
- (BECTA 2002)

More specifically, BECTA claims that ICT can enable children to:

- combine words and images to produce a 'professional' looking piece of work
- draft and redraft their work with less effort
- test out ideas and present them in different ways for different audiences
- explore musical sequences and compose their own music
- investigate and make changes in computer models
- store and handle large amounts of information in different ways
- do things quickly and easily which might otherwise be tedious or time-consuming
- use simulations to experience things which might otherwise be too difficult or dangerous for them to attempt in real life
- control devices by turning motors, buzzers and lights on or off or by programming them to react to changes in things like light or temperature sensors
- communicate with others over a distance.

A child who has developed ICT capability should:

- use ICT confidently
- select and use ICT appropriate to the task in hand
- use information sources and ICT tools to solve problems
- identify situations where the ICT use would be relevant
- use ICT to support learning in a number of contexts
- be able to reflect and comment on the use of ICT they have undertaken
- understand the implications of ICT for working life and society.

Reference

BECTA (British Educational Communications and Technology Agency) (2002) *Information Sheet: Parents, ICT and Education*. Coventry: BECTA.

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Published on the companion web resource for *A Guide to Teaching Practice* (RoutledgeFalmer).