

Checklist for Microcomputer Courseware

Program Name: Dr. Brain's Robot

Vendor/Author: Kaboose.com

Subject Area: Math (arithmetic)

Grade Level: K-2

Instructional Integrity

- | | Yes | No |
|--|----------|----------|
| 1. Is the content relevant to the instructional needs of the students? | <u>X</u> | _____ |
| 2. Is the program organized and presented in a sequential manner and in appropriate developmental steps? | <u>X</u> | _____ |
| 3. Is the content presented clearly? | <u>X</u> | _____ |
| 4. Are the use of graphics, sound, and color appropriate? | <u>X</u> | _____ |
| 5. Does the program provide meaningful interaction for the students? | <u>X</u> | _____ |
| 6. Does the program provide for used self-pacing? | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 7. Does the material require the purchase of accompanying printed material, or is it self-sufficient?.... | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 8. Does the material provide direct instruction? | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 9. Does the material provide immediate feedback? | <u>X</u> | _____ |
| 10. Does the material provide a variety of built-in reinforcements? | _____ | <u>X</u> |

Technical Adequacy and Utility

- | | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| 1. Are the teacher's instructions well organized, useful, and easy to understand? | <u>X</u> | _____ |
| 2. Does material require extensive preparation or training on the teacher's part? | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 3. Is the material of high quality? | <u>X</u> | _____ |
| 4. Is the size of the print clear and well spaced?..... | <u>X</u> | _____ |
| 5. Does the speed of presentation match individual learning styles? | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 6. Does the student need typing skills to use the program? | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 7. Is it "kid-proof?" | <u>X</u> | _____ |
| 8. Can a student use the program without supervision?..... | <u>X</u> | _____ |
| 9. Is a printout of student performance available, if desired? | _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 10. Can the program be used in a regular classroom, resource room, media center, agency, or institution?..... | <u>X</u> | _____ |

Date 9/16/10

Evaluator Joshua B. Frisch

Open-ended Courseware Evaluation

Program Name: Lattice Multiplication

Vendor/Author: Coolmath4kids.com

Subject Area: Math (multiplication)

Grade Level: 3-6

1. How appropriate is computer use for this activity?

Computer use for this activity is not necessary at all. I have taught the method of lattice multiplication in class without the use of computers.

2. Are the goals of the program clear? (What are they?)

The goal of website is to teach children/students how to multiply using the lattice method. The goals are fairly clear, but could be clearer. There is a brief synopsis that explains what lattice method but no mention of why it should be used besides being “easier than the regular way” to multiply.

3. Does the activity in the program focus on these goals?

The tutorial does focus on the goal, which is to teach how to do the lattice method of multiplication and does not veer from the goal in any way, shape, or form.

4. Are the instructions clear? (If not, why?)

The instructions are very clear and specific. There are images that correspond to the words that describe the process of using the lattice method. The graphics are extremely kid friendly and do an excellent job explaining the steps.

5. Is content relevant to instructional needs of students? Why or why not?

The content is extremely relevant to the instructional needs of students because it explains a method of multiplication that many students feel is easier than other methods. The initial process of learning the method is not easy, but once they get it, students usually have an easier time multiplying.

6. How well is the program organized and presented in a sequential manner and in appropriate developmental steps?

The program is organized exceptionally well. It goes step by step on how to set up a lattice box, where the digits go (for both the factors and the products), how to multiply, add, and finally get the final product. It does an excellent job of explaining the process.

7. How does the program respond to input mistakes?

Since this is a tutorial website that has no user interaction, there is no chance to make mistakes, and thus it does not respond to mistakes.

8. How appropriately is reinforcement used?

Since there is no interaction with the user, there is no reinforcement available.

9. Does the program provide for user self-pacing? Yes X No

10. Is a printout of student performance available if desired? Yes No X

11. What is your overall evaluation of program?

As a tutorial on how to use the lattice method to multiply, this website does an excellent job. However, I wish there was an option for students to practice the method with appropriate feedback given.

Date 9/21/10

Evaluator Joshua B. Frisch

Package Title: 4kids.org
Evaluator Name: Joshua Frisch

Producer: ALTEC
Organization: ELPS760

Evaluator's Level and Subject Taught: K-5 Mathematics

Date: 10/6/10 Was your evaluation based in part on student use? Yes__ No x

Reviewer Statement of Non-Violation of Copyright

The producer's copyright was respected during this evaluation, and I did not copy any portion of this package. Signature: Joshua Frisch Date: 10/6/10

SA=Strongly Agree; A=Agree; D= Disagree; SD=Strongly Disagree; NA=Not Applicable

Please include comments on individual items on the reverse page

Content Characteristics (indicate with an x after your selection)

1. SA x A _ D _ SD _ NA The content is accurate.
2. SA x A _ D _ SD _ NA The content has educational value.
3. SA x A _ D _ SD _ NA The content is free of racial, ethnic, sexual and other stereotypes.

Instructional Characteristics

4. SA _ A x D _ SD _ NA The purpose of the package is well-defined.
5. SA _ A x D _ SD _ NA The package achieves its defined purpose.
6. SA x A _ D _ SD _ NA Presentation of content is clear and logical.
7. SA x A _ D _ SD _ NA The level of difficulty is appropriate for the target audience.
8. SA x A _ D _ SD _ NA Graphics/color/sound are used for appropriate instructional reasons.
9. SA _ A x D _ SD _ NA Use of the package is motivational.
10. SA _ A _ D x SD _ NA The package effectively stimulates student creativity.
11. SA _ A x D _ SD _ NA Feedback on student responses is effectively employed.
12. SA _ A _ D x SD _ NA The learner controls the rate and sequence of presentation and review.
13. SA _ A x D _ SD _ NA Instruction is integrated with previous student experience.
14. SA _ A x D _ SD _ NA Learning can be generalized to an appropriate range of situations.

Technical Characteristics

15. SA_ A_x D_ SD_ NA The user support materials are comprehensive.
16. SA_ A_x D_ SD_ NA The user support materials are effective.
17. SA_ A_x D_ SD_ NA Information displays are effective.
18. SA_ A_x D_ SD_ NA Intended users can easily and independently operate the program.
19. SA_ A_x D_ SD_ NA Teachers can easily employ the package.
20. SA_ A_x D_ SD_ NA The program appropriately uses relevant computer capabilities.
21. SA_x A_ D_ SD_ NA The program is reliable in normal use.

Quality

Write a number from 1 (low) to 5 (high) which represents your judgment of the quality of the package in each division:

- 5 Content Characteristics
4 Instructional Characteristics
4 Technical Characteristics

Recommendations

- X I highly recommend use of this package
___ I would use or recommend use of this package with little or no change (Note suggestions for effective use below)
___ I would use or recommend use of this package only if certain changes are made (Note under Weaknesses or Other Comments)
___ I would not use or recommend this package (Note reasons under weaknesses)

Describe the potential use of this package in classroom settings:

This package can be used to reinforce many basic skills taught in the classroom. It also enables students to practice with each other, as well as allowing them to compete against each other using their knowledge of the skills.

Estimate the amount of time a student would need to work with the package in order to achieve the objectives: (Can be total time, time per day, time range or other indicator.) Since this package is a reinforcement package, it would depend on the level of the student prior to using it. If the student is fairly knowledgeable of the material, they will not need much time, however, if the student is not very knowledgeable, then they will need more time.

Strengths: Clean looking; easy to use; allows for different skill levels; different subject/content area; allows for competition between students.

Weaknesses: None

Other Comments: I have recommended this package to former coworkers and they have used it in their classes with success.