

WHY CAN'T I GET TO THAT SITE?

One of the most common complaints is that sites are blocked. We have touched on how to get them unblocked. But thought it was important to outline why they are blocked in the first place.

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) is a federal law enacted by Congress to address concerns about access to offensive content over the Internet on school and library computers. CIPA imposes certain types of requirements

on any school or library that receives funding for Internet access or internal connections from the E-rate program – a program that makes certain communications technology more affordable for eligible schools and libraries. In early 2001, the FCC issued rules implementing CIPA. More recently, Congress enacted additional protections for children using the Internet. Schools subject to CIPA are required to adopt and enforce a

policy to monitor online activities of minors. So the federal government requires a filter. As we have said before it's an inexact science. However, if you would like to read more, here is the link.

<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.html>



WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALL WINTER?

Just a reminder that we are available on Wednesdays from 4-7PM for extra help. This is the one time that the content is controlled by you.

You can tell us what you need to work on.

All we ask is that you contact us ahead of time to let us know if

you will attend. We can be reached by email or cell phone.

The contact information is available on the last page.

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ELEMENTARY MATH SITE

Last month we focused on math but many of the sites were middle and high school. So, this month we are focusing on the elementary grades. We have a web site we are updating and will forward that to you as well. But for now here are some sites to get you started.

Find the Number http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/numbertime/games/find_the.shtml

Fill in the number <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/numbertime/games/mend.shtml>

Sequencing <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/numbertime/games/snakes.shtml>

(like our "Chutes and Ladders" one or two players)

Counting and Matching <http://www.funbrain.com/count/index.html>

Sequencing <http://www.funbrain.com/cgi-bin/ofm.cgi?A1=s&A3=0&A2=0>

(higher numbers, can do negatives and double digits)

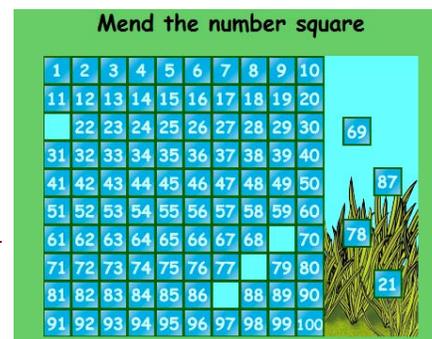
Number Guess <http://www.funbrain.com/guess/index.html>

(good for estimating, students guess a number and it tells them whether it's higher or lower)

Number Recognition and Sequencing <http://www.learningplanet.com/sam/cyc/index.asp>

(early elementary)

Number Order <http://www.learningplanet.com/act/123order.asp>



OUR SITE

As many of you know we have been working on the instructional technology site. At this point all of the SUNY collaborative projects are on there. We have just finished putting up all the projects from Summer 2008. Please take the time to take a look at them. There is a good chance that something you are going to teach has

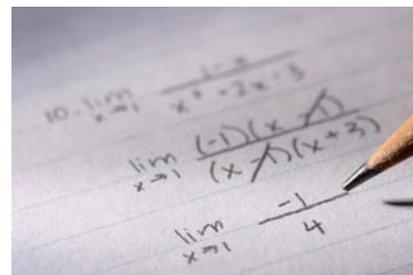
technology resources to go with it.

<http://webhelp.albany.12.ny.us/instructional>

In addition, the math site, has not been moved to the new site but is still available. You can use one of the 100s of sites

that have been sorted and organized for you.

http://www.albany.k12.ny.us/tech/cti/subject/math_sites.htm



POVERTY DRAMATICALLY EFFECTS CHILDREN'S BRAINS

http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-12-07-childrens-brains_N.htm

In general I would never print an article from USA Today. However, it caught my attention. I then actually tracked down the actual study and talked to the editor and the researcher. For those of you that may be interested, the actual study is entitled; "Socioeconomic Disparities Affect Prefrontal Function in Children." It is by Dr. Kishiyama and will published in it's full text in June in the Journal of Cognitive Neuropathy.

A new study finds that certain brain functions of some low-income 9- and 10-year-olds pale in comparison with those of wealthy children and that the difference is almost equivalent to the damage from a stroke.

"It is a similar pattern to what's seen in patients with strokes that have led to lesions in their prefrontal cortex," which controls higher-order thinking and problem solving, says lead researcher Mark Kishiyama, a cognitive psychologist at the University of California-Berkeley. "It suggests that in these kids, prefrontal function is reduced or disrupted in some way."

The study adds to a growing body of evidence that shows how poverty afflicts children's brains. Researchers have long pointed to the ravages of malnutrition, stress, illiteracy and toxic environments in low-income children's lives. Research has shown that the neural systems of poor children develop differently from those of middle-class children, affecting language development and "executive function," or the ability to plan, remember details and pay attention in school. Such deficiencies are reversible through intensive intervention such as focused lessons and games that encourage children to think out loud or use executive function.

"It's really important for neuroscientists to start to think about the effects of people's experiences on their brain function, and specifically about the effect of people's socioeconomic status," says Martha Farah, director of the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Pennsylvania.

Among the most studied: differences in language acquisition between low- and middle-income children. The most famous study, from 1995, transcribed conversation between parents and children and found that by age 3, middle-class children had working vocabularies roughly twice the size of poor children's.

For the new study, researchers used an electroencephalograph (EEG) to measure brain function of 26 children while they watched images flashing on a computer. The children pressed a button when a tilted triangle appeared.

The researchers found a huge difference in the low-income children's ability to detect the tilted triangles and block out distractions — a key function of the prefrontal cortex.

"It's just not functioning as efficiently as it could be, or as it should be," Kishiyama says.

Though the effects of poverty are reversible, children need "incredibly intensive interventions to overcome this kind of difficulty," says Susan Neuman, an education professor at the University of Michigan.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-12-07-childrens-brains_N.htm



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INAUGURATION

This year we are experiencing what will perhaps be a once in a life time experience. To help you make the most of this we have gathered some sites for you to use as the day approaches.

Senate Inaugural Site

<http://inaugural.senate.gov/>

Presidential Inauguration Committee Website

<http://www.pic2009.org/content/home/>

I do Solemnly Swear...Presidential Inaugurations by American Memory

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/pihtml/pihome.html>

President Inauguration.com

<http://www.presidential-inauguration.com/>

PBS Inaugural History

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/inauguration/history.html>

Inaugural Addresses of the Presidents of the United States

<http://www.bartleby.com/124/>

Presidential Speech Archive

http://millercenter.org/scripps/archive/speeches/spe_1797_0304_adams

My First Inauguration: an experience to remember (written by a student)

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=5768>

Weekly photos of construction of inaugural platform

<http://inaugural.senate.gov/2009/slideshow-platformconstruction.cfm>

Smithsonian Presidential Inaugural photographs

http://photo2.si.edu/inaugural/inau_top/inaugural.html

Inaugural Schedule

<http://www.pic2009.org/pages/schedule/>

Education World Inauguration Lessons

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson21

History of Presidential Inaugurations by White House History

http://www.whitehousehistory.org/03/subs/03_a.html

Kaboose inauguration coverage including Obama Biography

<http://holidays.kaboose.com/inauguration-day.html>

Presidential Inaugural Guide

<http://www.dcpages.com/Inauguration/>

Inaugural Fashion

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/inauguration/fashion.html>

