

Mac Life

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JULY 2007 NO. 6



5 out of 5 rating!



WEB 2.0

HOW TO MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU

Use your Mac to stake your claim on the new Web frontier.

PLUS: The raddest sites you haven't heard of! p22

A Day in the Life of an Apple Genius

Tales from the other side of the Genius Bar p44

HOW TO:

- >> Remotely Control an Army of Macs
- >> Turn Your Cell Phone into a Mac Remote



YOU ARE HERE

REVIEWED: Best Kids' Software p35



The Best Mac Software For Kids

GAMES

Time to Play

For older kids, there's a huge world of Mac games out there. (If you like a game and it's got a rating you're comfortable with, kids 11 and up will probably like it too.) But if you'd rather have your 10- and 11-year-olds play games meant for their age group, check out these titles. It's a good thing we introduced the games after the learning apps...it would have been impossible to tear them away from the purely fun stuff.

GIGGLES COMPUTER FUNTIME FOR BABY

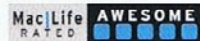
When your baby is having a mashing good time on your Mac, arms and hands flailing away at your keyboard, you might as well have Giggles Computer Funtime for Baby installed. The software reacts to your child's keyboard pounding based on a variety of themes that you select. Parents will find their kids more entertaining than the software, and the kids will like the pictures that fly across

GIGGLES COMPUTER FUNTIME FOR BABY

Leveractive
www.giggles.net
Price: \$19.99
Age range: 6 months to 2 years
Requirements: Mac OS 10.1 or later

Nothing complex, just good old-fashioned keyboard pounding for babies. Nice graphics. Good variety of "games."

Might be annoying to parents. Not for delicate keyboards.



LUA LUA

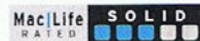
There's no meandering storyline in Lua Lua: It cuts right to the games. Lua Lua packages seven games with colorful graphics and, shall we say, energetic music—as in, parents will be annoyed by it after 15 minutes. The games involve matching, pattern recognition, and puzzle solving, but Lua Lua doesn't provide any instructions at the beginning of each game, and the feedback for a correct or incorrect move is so subtle that your kid won't know if a move is right or

LUA LUA

Philios
www.philios.com
Price: \$19.95
Age range: 3 to 7
Requirements: Mac OS 10.2 or later

Good variety of games. Game updates and added games are free. Universal binary.

Lacks tangible feedback. No direction offered at beginning of games. May not hold your kids' attention for long.



Kids click the letter that the bear says.

DIDI & DITTO KINDERGARTEN

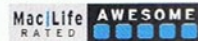
Didi & Ditto Kindergarten is a kids' game done right. The artwork and animation are of a quality rarely seen in kids' software, and there's a good mix of fun puzzles that your child can do solo or with your help. Our testers had fun pointing and clicking around the landscape to find a puzzle or trigger amusing skits, jokes, or riddles from a colorful

DIDI & DITTO KINDERGARTEN

Kutoka
www.kutoka.com
Price: \$26.95
Age range: 4 to 6
Requirements: Mac OS 10.2 or later

Top-notch graphics and animation. Wide variety of interesting and challenging games. Positive reinforcement builds confidence.

Hunting for the sweet spots to click on to play a game can be frustrating.



array of characters (though parents may tire of all the pointing and clicking). The inspired puzzles emphasize a variety of skills—your child should be able to recognize letters and numbers to play—but aren't too difficult for kindergartners and some preschoolers.

GRAPHICS & MULTIMEDIA

Painting with Pixels

Imagine how much of a whiz you'd be at editing photos or video if you grew playing with Photoshop or iMovie. Photoshop may be stretching it—especially for kids younger than 10. But there are several very good graphics and multimedia apps for the Mac that can give your wee ones a great foundation in the digital arts.



KID PIX 2007 UNIVERSAL EDITION

KID PIX 2007

Software MacKiev
www.mackiev.com

CANVASTIC

Canvastic offers kids a leg up in future careers as marketers or digital designers, letting them design slideshows and other graphics projects. Our younger testers found the blank canvas

CANVASTIC

Canvastic
www.canvastic.com