Children's SOFTWARE new media Revue, www.childrenssoftware.com



MOVE OVER, GAME BOY!

Why kids love Leapster (page 8)

Six Ways Technology is Changing Play (page 4)

Plus first looks at Zoo Tycoon 2, Kidspiration 2, The Muppets Party Cruise, Trainz, iLife, Home on the Range, and over 100 more reviews!

INSIDE I DIS 1330E
News3
Cheaper Chips Bring Smarter Toys4
LittleClickers: Safe, Fun Internet
Explorations for Children
Let's Write and Read6
Software News
✓ Ages 3-67
✓ Ages 5-89
✓ Ages 8-1211
✓ Ages 12-up13
✓ New Titles for Schools16
New Software for the Leapster8
DVDs With Interactive Features. .9
A Powerful New iBook and a Palm
that Takes Pictures15
that lakes lictures
School Supplement16
School Supplement16 Book Reviews for Teachers21
Book Reviews for Teachers21
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor Games that Foster Social
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor Games that Foster Social Relationships22
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor Games that Foster Social Relationships22 New Console Titles23
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor Games that Foster Social Relationships
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor Games that Foster Social Relationships22 New Console Titles23
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor Games that Foster Social Relationships
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor Games that Foster Social Relationships
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor Games that Foster Social Relationships
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor Games that Foster Social Relationships
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor Games that Foster Social Relationships
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor Games that Foster Social Relationships
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor Games that Foster Social Relationships
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor Games that Foster Social Relationships
Book Reviews for Teachers21 Parent's Videogame Advisor Games that Foster Social Relationships

School Supplement

Macromedia Director MX 2004,

Macromedia, Inc., \$500, ages 12-up, Windows, Macintosh. New features to this upgrade include the ability to incorporate media formats, including DVD-Video, Windows Media, RealMedia, QuickTime, and Flash; plus the ability to integrate Macromedia Flash MX 2004 content into Director projects. Supports JavaScript syntax or the familiar Lingo. For more information, visit www.macromedia.com/go/dirmx2004. The software works on Mac OS X v10.2.6 or higher, and for Windows 2000 or Windows XP. French, German, and Japanese versions will be available at a later date.

My Med Log, Professional Management Solutions, Inc., \$19.95, Windows. This is a computerized home medical journal that has specialized charts for diabetic care, personal care and pediatric care. Other features include an office visit log, health history log, height and weight charts and more. Every detail of someone's health can be recorded with reports and printouts.

Secret Weapons Over Normandy,

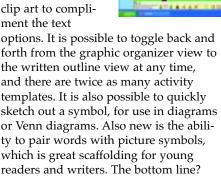
LucasArts Entertainment Company, \$49.95, 13-up, PlayStation 2, Xbox, Windows. This is a a World War II flying game that uses the same flight controls as other Lucas StarWars flying games (just imagine the White Cliffs of Dover instead of the Death Star). There are mission games, where you unlock as many as 16 additional historically detailed airplanes and weapons, and also quick flights. This is not an easy game to play-you get dizzy trying to find the enemy. We reviewed both the PlayStation and the PC version, and liked the console rendition more. The detailed graphics did not perform well on our standard graphics card. The game has some historic value, most notably the facts about the airplanes, their attributes, and the different weapon systems of the period. Violence is no more than you'd expect: shooting and crashing; nothing more than that to worry about. For PC, bag it; for console, borrow it. O

Don't miss the Summer issue of CSR. Call 908-284-0404 today! Following the FETC show in Orlando, many new educational products were announced. Here's a listing, from highest rating to lowest rating.

Kidspiration Version 2, 4.8 or

★★★★,

Inspiration Software, Inc., \$69.00, 5-12, Windows, Macintosh. With a new emphasis on writing, this concept-mapping tool is better than ever. Like its big brother Inspiration, Kidspiration provides a set of tools so that both teachers and students can create graphic concept maps for any subject. This edition is easier to use, with clip art to compliment the text



Health for Kids Series, 4.6 or stars, Core Learning, \$20, ages 7-10, Windows, Macintosh. The two volume Health for Kids Series (\$20 each) provides a fun tour of the human body, covering how it functions and how it works to stay healthy. The two titles are Explore Your Health (with nine animated tutorials such as 'Alluring Alveoli')

This is a wonderful creative writing

tool, with endless creative possibilities.





and Explore Your
Body (nine tutorials
such as 'The Tongue of
Terror'). The interface
is well designed and
very responsive. There
is no record keeping.
This is a good reinforcement activity for
home or school use.
Note that a series for
older children is also
available, called
Health Beats.
Recommended.

Health Beats Series, 4.5 or *********, Core Learning, \$20/title, 9-15, Windows, Macintosh. Designed to accompany the Health Kids Series, this

is a well designed,

responsive set of five programs. Each provides guided tours of content typical of physical, emotional and social health courses. There are quizzes, games and colorful resources that can be incorporated into projects. Just put in the disk, and you have a set of simple activities, with a quiz for each key concept. There is no record keeping and not much chance to apply the knowledge,

but the design is very engaging.

Kurzweil 3000 Version 7, 4.5 or **** stars, Kurzweil Educational Systems, \$395 and up, 6-up, Windows, Macintosh. Designed for students with learning disabilities or other reading difficulties, this is a well designed textto-speech word processor and document reader lets students hear each word they type read aloud. The software can be set to read word by word, whole sentences or continuously. Text is highlighted as it is read, and there are many ways in which the font can be manipulated and enlarged to facilitate easier reading. The document reader works in much the same manner. Students scan (scanner required) or open up an existing document, and the software will read it out loud. The program is easy to use. A multi lingual dictionary and thesaurus are always available. Additional features include a note-