

English Year 1: This is Me

Introduction

Here, pupils use a digital camera to take photographs of each other and use the computer to produce labels and captions for a display.

Skills involved

What will the children learn?

Pupils will learn to use a keyboard in order to type their name or a simple sentence. They will also learn that a computer can be used to store pictures taken by a digital camera.

What prior experience do the children need?

The children need to understand that labels and captions can be used to describe.

Equipment

- A digital camera
- A simple word-processing program
- A digital projector and/or interactive whiteboard (optional)
- A selection of photos of people, with captions attached.

The Lesson

Take (or get the pupils to take) digital photographs of each of the children. Depending on whether you want your final display to be on the computer or on the wall, place each picture in a word processing or multimedia page with a frame for text to be added. Pre-set the font size and colour as appropriate and begin the writing with 'This is a photo of me. My name is'.

Show the children the series of pictures and tell them that they are going to be used for a class display to show visitors.

Tell the children that they are to provide the captions for their photographs. Show them how captions are used in books or on web sites to describe photos of people.

Demonstrate the use of the keyboard. Show how, when you press a key, the same letter appears on screen. Type your name. Dependent on the level of support (see 'Differentiating the activity'), or on the abilities of the children, demonstrate the use of the space bar and shift key.

As a shared activity the pupils can be asked to come up and type their names in the writing frame. This can be done in short bursts over the period of a week rather than all in one go. If support is available, or if ability dictates, this can be done as a paired or individual task.

Why are we using ICT?

ICT enables the pupils to produce pictures that can be printed out or viewed on screen and to write short pieces of text suitable for class displays.

References

QCA Schemes of Work ICT Unit 1d: Labelling and classifying

<http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes2/it/?view=get>

National Literacy Strategy Framework for Teaching Y1 T2 T22: to write labels; Y1 T2 T23: to produce extended captions

http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/literacy/teaching_resources/nls_framework/

Where do we go next?

The children can be asked to type captions for other display work over the course of the year, short sentences appended to art work, for example, or labels for history or science tables.

The computer can be used for modelled and shared writing, particularly if a data projector and/or interactive whiteboard is available. In demonstrating, speak aloud your thoughts as you make decisions about capital letters etc.

Differentiating the activity

Less able pupils may just type their names or could receive support from a classroom assistant or parent helper. More able children could be asked to type their names and an additional sentence beginning 'I like...'

Reflecting on their work

Take time to view the completed display. Discuss how computer writing differs from handwriting. Talk about anything that they found difficult in completing the task. Ask what else they might have written about themselves if they had had more time.