



Microsoft® Partners in Learning Customer Reference

French kindergarten proves that you are never too young to start using Information Technology

“Our ambition is not sophisticated; it’s to provide the children with easy and creative access to information technology. Thanks to the Fresh Start programme, we’ve succeeded.”

Thierry Xavier, Teacher, Ecole maternelle des Bois, Paris

Fast Facts

Customer: Ecole maternelle des Bois

Country: France

Web Site: <http://ec-2-bois.scola.ac-paris.fr/>

Customer Profile

Ecole maternelle des Bois is a kindergarten in Paris with 160 students. In order to succeed in exposing its students to information technology, it has to find ways to make a small budget stretch further. One of its main options is donated computers.

Partners in Learning

Microsoft Fresh Start, one of the Partners in Learning programmes, is vital for schools with donated computers, since it gives them a free licensed copy of a Windows operating system for every donated computer they receive.

For more information about other Microsoft Partners in Learning customer successes, please visit:

www.microsoft.com/emea/PartnersinLearning

Education Challenge

The earlier children start to learn Information Technology the easier it will become for them in their later years. It’s possible to expose children to computers at a very young age, because they don’t need to be able to read or write to learn how to use a computer. All they need is a supportive environment and access to computers with engaging, educational learning games.

Ecole maternelle des Bois wanted its 160 students, aged between 2 and 5, to benefit from early exposure to computers. However, the French kindergarten, located in Paris, had a problem. Like other nursery and primary schools in France, it only had a small annual budget for information technology.

Solution

The school was determined to overcome its limited funds, so it approached companies and parents for donations of equipment. By mid-2005 it had 50 donated computers and was able to create a well-stocked computer laboratory and even install computers in classrooms.

The kindergarten could not have done this without Microsoft Fresh Start, one of the four programmes of the Microsoft Partners in Learning initiative. Donated computers are vital to many schools that can’t afford to buy their own, but the schools often have a problem in knowing whether they have a legitimate operating system licence for their second-hand computers.

Fresh Start removes this uncertainty by providing a free licensed copy of the Microsoft® Windows 98 or Microsoft® Windows 2000 operating system directly to Fresh Start schools. To become a Fresh Start school, Ecole maternelle des Bois simply completed a short application form for the computers it had received as donations.

Ecole maternelle des Bois received its first licences from Microsoft in September 2004. Thanks to the Fresh Start programme and the generosity of local companies and parents, the school has been able to make its small information technology budget stretch far enough to create a first-class learning environment for its students.

Through a number of French computer games, the children learn many important things, such as how to identify shapes, colours and patterns. As the games are interactive, they immediately know when they’ve done something correctly or incorrectly, without needing a parent or teacher to intervene.

The children are also developing good hand-eye coordination skills, learning how to use a mouse and keyboard, and becoming comfortable with computers. This will enable them to take better advantage of information technology at home and at school as they grow older.