

An Interactive Field Trip

Introduction

Field trips are an important experience for children in early childhood classrooms. Trips may be planned around topics discussed in the classroom and around themes. The local community may have an industry or a historical feature that would be interesting for a field trip. Places to visit may include the following: YMCA, park, library, post office, bakery, fire station, greenhouse, bowling alley, newspaper office, or a tall building. Activities and discussions about the field trip may enhance language and cognitive skills in young children.

Children can retell their field trip experiences through artwork, written expression, drama, and storytelling. *HyperStudio* can then be used to incorporate the children's products into a unique story to be retold on the computer. The field trip experiences come alive on the screen as familiar pictures, people, artwork, and voices appear in the class's story. By helping develop this computer story, children gain skills in sequencing, communication, identification, and social interaction as well as a sense of pride from seeing their own artwork and story on the computer.

Captured on disk, this story can be viewed at family nights, during open house, and in other early childhood classrooms. Many activities can be developed around the children's computer story. The children can relive their field trip during computer time. Copies of each child's story can be shared at home and in the reading center.

Materials

- Computer
- *HyperStudio*
- Microphone – compatible for the computer
- Color printer
- Camera and film
- Color flatbed scanner (optional)

Ahead of Time

Create a basic template for each child's stack.

Introductory Activity

- Introduce the field trip to the children. Encourage them to predict what they would see and do on the field trip, and then record their predictions.
- Take children on the field trip. Children can take pictures and videotape during their trip.
- After the field trip, encourage the children to talk about what they saw. Ask questions about their favorite parts or what something looked like? For sequencing, ask questions such as "What came first?" or "What came next?" This allows the children

to be reminded of what they did and the experiences they had. Write comments on large tablets.

- Encourage the children to draw pictures of their field trip experience. These drawings can be scanned and saved for future use in *HyperStudio*. (Knowledge of using a color scanner is recommended. A scanner is used to transfer photographs, pictures, children's artwork, and written material onto a computer disk. Once these images or written words are in a file, they can then be placed in a graphics program or in *HyperStudio* for modification or further use.)

Computer Activity

- At the technology center, children can take turns drawing pictures of their experiences using the drawing program in *HyperStudio*. Save each picture to the disk. While some children are at the technology center drawing, other children can draw pictures of what they saw using color markers at the art center. Ask leading questions that encourage the children's involvement with recalling the trip such as "What was your favorite part of the field trip?" or "What did it look like?" Facilitate discussion among peers about what they liked.
- With a facilitator at the computer using *HyperStudio*, encourage children to retell their experiences. Record their voices and save them to disk. Use the recordings to describe what was in their picture and/or their experiences.
- During teacher prep time, combine the children's stacks using *HyperStudio*. If a color flatbed scanner is available, scan the children's artwork from the field trip. Save the pictures as "PICT" to disk. Place them into *HyperStudio*.
- Once this is completed, begin the day at the technology center with a child's stack on the computer. Encourage the children to talk about who's in the picture, who made the picture, and whose voice is speaking? Children can then relate this story to books or objects from the field trip.

Extended Activity

Make a classroom book: During the field trips, children can take photographs. Develop the photographs. From *HyperStudio*, print each child's story using a color printer. Laminate the pages. Bind the pages and photos together to create a book. Individual or group books can be created.

Summary

This unique story created with *HyperStudio* allows children to relive and share their field trip experiences with family and friends throughout the school year. Adaptations with input methods and overlays (such as Discover:Kenx) ensure that every child in the classroom can participate equally in the activities.