



Magic Cloud Case Study

Balfour Primary School, Brighton, Sussex

Balfour Primary school is a large school of almost 900 pupils across two sites. It is a successful school, which aims to meet the needs of all children and there is a dedicated team of staff who work extremely hard to achieve this aim. In this Case Study, the class teacher used the Magic Cloud with children in the four Foundation Stage classes for a week.

The Magic Cloud was introduced by showing how placing a 'soft toy fish' on the Magic Cloud made the computer play a song about counting fish. The children were excited and intrigued by how this worked. Then a plastic duck was shown and the children had to guess what would happen when this was placed on the cloud. Most children guessed that something to do with a duck would come up on the computer screen and were thrilled when they were correct. Children asked many questions about how it worked. We used children's questions to talk about sensors and the language of programming, for example, 'if you do this, then this happens'.

The children then explored the other toys that we linked to nursery rhymes. This worked well with the literacy unit we are looking at about retelling familiar stories. We were very happy with how they were keen to watch and sing along with the stories, not just flick through the different toys. We then used the Magic Cloud to change the tags in the nursery rhyme objects to questions for them to think about.

On another week, we showed children how to link tags to a video recording. For most children, they were able to do this independently after one demonstration. The children then made plasticine models and placed the tag inside the model. Children used the Magic Cloud to record videos of them talking about their models. We used this activity to help children think about how they could describe their options. We plan to put these models outside the classroom for children in other classes to see what work we have been doing.

We have been very impressed with how easy it is to use the Magic Cloud and how it has encouraged both teachers and children to think of different ways we can use it. Our next plan is to show children how to create drawings on the computer and link them to their favourite toys. I am also experimenting with giving children 'instruction cards' where I link a video demonstration of an activity for children to explore independently.



"The Cloud helped the children start to understand the beginnings of programming: 'If I do this, then this happens.'" It did this in an easy to understand and exciting way. The possibilities for children's exploration of this is endless. It's a great way for children to comment on their own and others work also"

Balfour Class Teacher

"The Magic Cloud was fun to use. I liked seeing the video of me on the screen. It was like magic when the different pictures came up after we put toys on it"

Balfour Year 2 pupil

