

## Criteria for Software Selection

We have always proposed the following hierarchy of considerations when teaching and learning with technology:

- 1) **Pedagogy**
- 2) **Curriculum**
- 3) **Software**
- 4) **Hardware**

### Pedagogical Considerations:

1-3 Points	Software Feature
	Engages learners, building on their natural curiosity, and involving them in constructivist learning activities
	Motivates and encourages students through feedback related to learning activity
	Allows multiple solutions or approaches to problems
	Offers adjustable levels of difficulty
	Relies on a variety of presentation modes, is multisensory and interactive, and addresses more than one of the seven Multiple Intelligences
	Assessment component supports a variety of learning styles
	Uses computer as researchers do – to store and retrieve data, communicate, help analyze, prepare tables and graphs, and write summaries and reports.
	Helps students develop self-confidence and self-reliance
	Can be used by individual or group
	Develops cooperative learning, collaboration, and communication skills
	Helps students understand other points of view
	Makes good use of humor
<b>Subtotal</b>	(Continue if over 25 points)

### Curricular Considerations:

1-3 Points	Software Feature
	Introduces "contextual" activities and concepts rather than "decontextualized" skills
	Relates and applies content and skills to everyday lives
	Contains worthwhile content, information
	Includes off-line enrichment activities
	Explores richness of different cultures
	Avoids ethnic and sexual bias, gratuitous glitz and violence
<b>Subtotal</b>	(Continue if over 10 points)

### Other Considerations:

1-3 Points	Software Feature
	Replays well: Cost-effective for * home use: grows with child * school use: can be used with next year's students
	Exploits technological capabilities (animation, sound, hypertext, etc.)
	Uses easy to learn interface/operating system
	Provides alternative to costly, dangerous experiments
	Works on your hardware!
	Offers good vendor support (help line, 30-day return policy)
	Tested by teachers, parents and <b>students</b>
	Includes teacher guides, training & support
	Gets you connected (networkable, links to WWW, etc.): WATCH THIS SPACE!
<b>Subtotal</b>	(Continue if over 20 points)

These requisite (but not exhaustive) criteria were developed by Dr. Lynell Burmark (lynellb@aol.com) and Dr. David Thornburg (dthornburg@aol.com). We would love to hear about any software you score 55 or more!  
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