

Software Evaluation Checklist

Based on Rubric Developed by Kristin Miller and Jacqueline Bach, SAS inSchool® Interns, Summer 2001

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Criteria	Exemplary Characteristics	+, √, or -
1. Instructional Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information is accurate, complete, and current • Facts come from reliable sources which are clearly identified • Content and context are consistent with the theme • All information relates to the stated purpose and learning goals • Content moves learners beyond the basics and encourages higher levels of thinking; students are engaged in applying what they learn 	
2. Curriculum Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and state standards are accessible within the product and may be easily linked to lessons • Lists all prerequisite skills • Uses all real world examples to make the instruction relevant for the learner • Complies with all subject based guidelines 	
3. Graphics/Multimedia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphics are well designed and rendered to enhance learning • Background and text are pleasing, compatible and easy to read • Graphics are consistent, appropriate and designed to optimize learning • Colors are used in an effective way • Animation always complements learning • Multimedia appears to be directly related to stated purpose and learning goals 	
4. Lay-out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layout is clear and intuitive; learners can always find what they need • It is easy to navigate through the information to find necessary features • Layout is logical • Layout is consistent on all pages 	
5. Technical Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All links work properly • Pages work in most common browsers: Netscape and Internet Explorer • All multimedia resources work at all times • Users are able to access web site or install software with ease • Clear and complete directions are available for access or installation 	
6. Adaptability/Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyperlinks have ALT tags for rollover to assist sight-impaired learners • Paragraphs and sections have clear and accurate informative headings • Clear and clean fonts are used consistently • Content is culturally diverse • Product accommodates unique learning styles and various ability levels 	
7. Engagement/Interactivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always requires learners to become actively engaged in order to learn • Text and documents always employ multimedia enhancements to make learning interactive • Provides appropriate feedback throughout the instruction • Keenly motivates the learner to continue learning and master concepts 	
8. Teacher & Learner Support Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program offers help at any stage • Provides various ways to reach technical support • Program provides students with additional resources such as web sites, bibliographies, etc. which are suitable to lesson • Teachers and students can easily track a student's progress through feedback or other documentation 	
9. Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment methods are challenging, appropriate, and suited to learning goals • Teachers can easily assess students' progress by evaluating the outcomes provided within the product 	
10. Age/Grade Appropriateness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading level is appropriate for target audience • Product is suitable for the age and grade level • Directions are clear and complete enough for students to perform required tasks 	
11. Flexibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners can save at regular intervals and re-enter the instruction at any point • All aspects of the software can be easily integrated into classroom activities • The program features activities for use in whole class instruction, individual, or group learning experiences 	
Comments:		Overall Rating: