MAPE
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Using ICT to support mathematics in primary schools – an INSET pack

The present government has placed great emphasis on the need not only for teachers to be fully ICT literate to the extent that large sums of lottery money have been made available to fund this training, but also on the importance of using ICT across the curriculum. I find it very surprising, therefore, that schools are not automatically receiving the latest training pack produced by the DfEE to support the National Numeracy Strategy, especially as each is printed:

Status: Recommended

Now I don't know why these packs are not being sent out to all schools, but I do not believe that the NNS team is responsible. After all if you have devoted two years or so to developing quality materials you want to make sure that the informa-
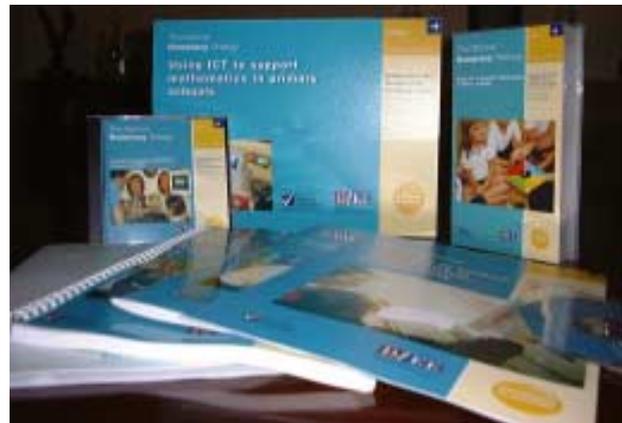

Fig. 1. *The contents of the pack.*

tion is disseminated as widely as possible.

As I write this in November my copy of *Using ICT to support mathematics in primary schools* has just arrived. Produced by the NNS team in association with BECTa, I know how much effort has gone into the production of this; it will prove to be an excellent resource.

For those who have not yet requested their copy this is what they will find inside:

- A video showing excerpts of lessons using a range of ICT tools
- A CD-ROM containing 17 short but very useful programs.
- A software user guide
- A book of sample lessons using ICT
- A booklet on using ICT to support handling data activities
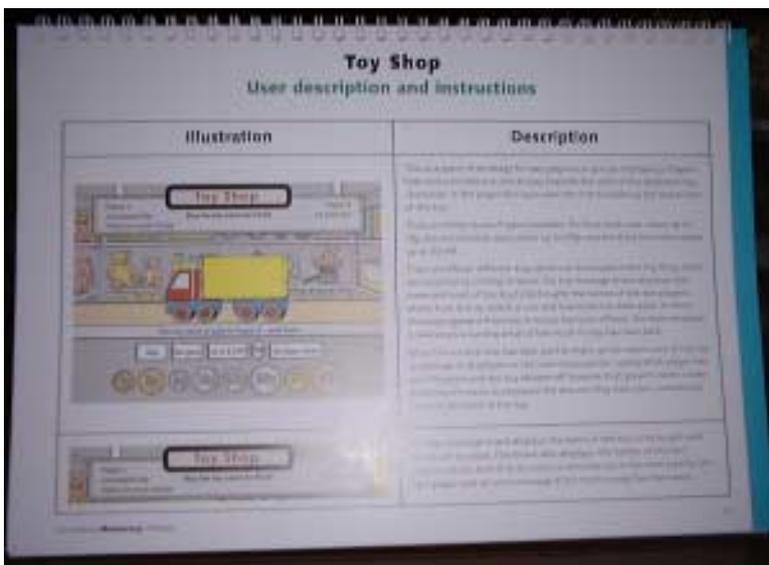- OHTs for staff training

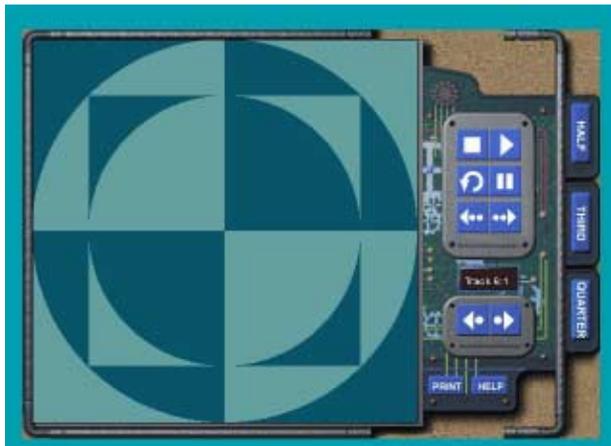**Fig. 2.** *Instructions for using the software.*

Fig. 3. *Half and half.*

- A CD-ROM of *Powerpoint* presentations as an alternative to the OHTs
- A book of guidance for professional development.

This pack supports schools in two ways. Firstly there is the training material: Maths co-ordinators can make use of the video, in conjunction with the software and OHTs to show colleagues how ICT can support their teaching and children's learning in a meaningful and non-threatening way. Secondly, teachers can use the sample lesson plans in association with the software to deliver quality
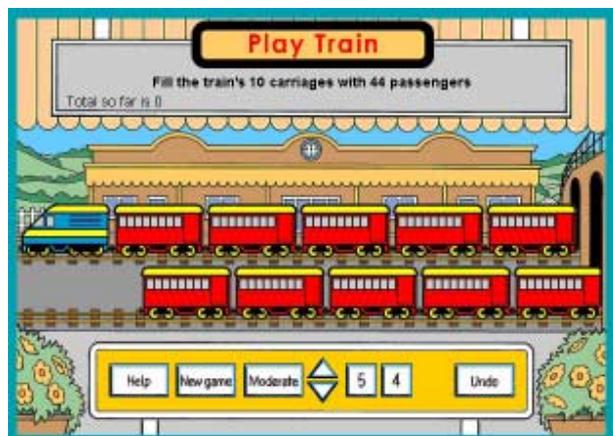

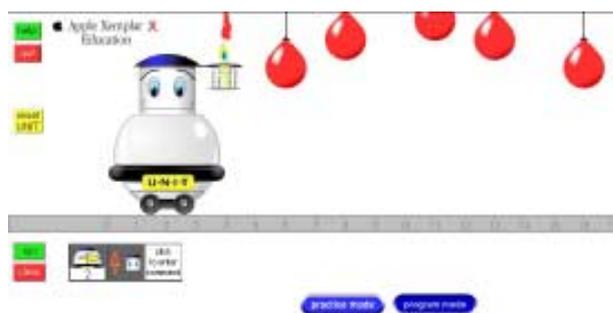**Fig. 4.** *Put the passengers in the carriages.*

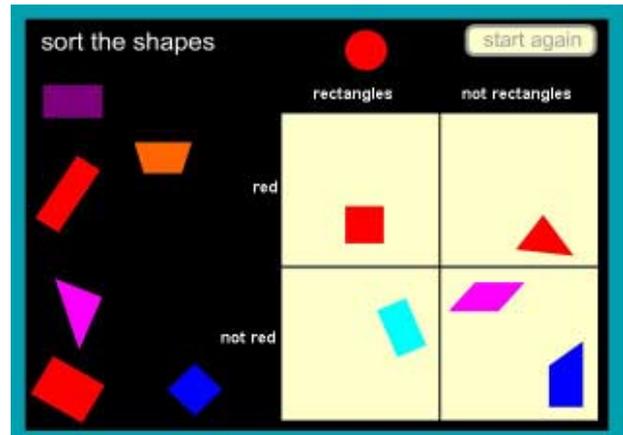**Fig. 5.** *Program Unit to burst the balloons.*

Fig. 6. *Sort the shapes in this Carroll diagram.*

teaching, and as their confidence develops they will be able to use the software provided, and other programs available in their schools to enhance their teaching and pupils' learning.

The software

The software contained in the pack can be used in a range of lessons across the primary phase. *The Strawberry Garden* is particularly suited to the very young learning about direction and movement, while at the top of the primary school able pupils, looking at problem solving, will be challenged by *Bounce*.

The programs can be used either in whole class teaching, making use of large screens (suggestions for ways to achieve this can be found within the pack), or for group work.

The software on the CD-ROM alone makes it worth requesting the pack.

Schools can obtain a copy free of charge by telephoning Prolog, the DfEE suppliers; their number is 0845 60 222 60.

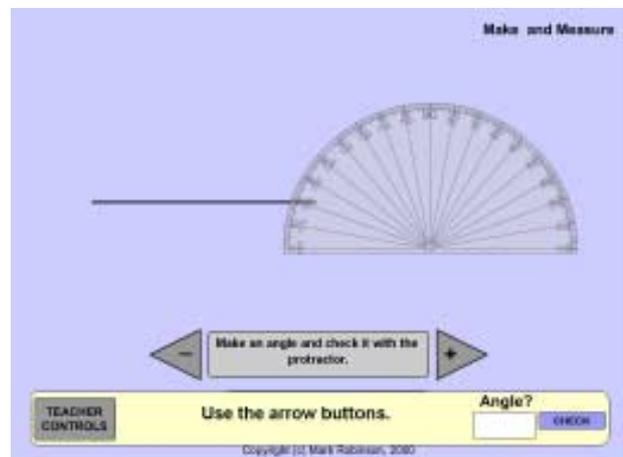It seems to me that this is well worth the cost of a phone call.

Fig. 7. *Measuring angles.*

The programs are:

Program	Platform	Program	Platform
Counter	PC/Apple	*Play Train*	PC/Apple
Minimax	PC/Apple	*Monty*	PC/Apple
Take Part	PC/Apple	*Toy Shop*	PC/Apple
Handy Graph*	PC/Apple	*What's my Angle**	PC/Apple
Function Machine*	PC/Apple	*Carroll Diagram**	PC/Apple
Venn Diagram*	PC/Apple	*Sorting 2D shapes**	PC/Apple
Unit the Robot*	PC/Apple	*Bounce*	PC only
Strawberry Garden	PC only	*Multiplication machine*	PC only
VersaTile	PC only		

*FLASH plug-in required