

Frequently Asked Questions

Basics:

What is the official legal status of the foundation?

e-Learning for Kids is both a US 501C(3) non-profit organization as well as a Dutch legal Stichting.

How is the foundation funded?

e-Learning for Kids is entirely funded by the donations of sponsors, organizations and individuals. Please consider making a tax deductible contribution today. Your donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

In which countries are the courses being used?

We are very pleased that courses have been used by over 2.3 million children in over 190 countries in both the developing and developed world (2010 figures). This indicates that children around the world can benefit from the same high quality courseware.

How can I learn more about the foundation and how can I help?

Please visit www.e-learningforkids.org or you can email info@e-learningforkids.org. If you have a question about a specific area, you can also email directly the appropriate person from our team as listed in the "About Us" section. For a quick look at who we are, what we do and how we do it, please view the EFK brochure in the "About Us" section. For general ideas as to how to help, please see the "Get Involved" section.

One idea may be to sponsor one (or multiple) lessons. The cost for one course is US \$3000. When the lesson starts, your name will be shown as the sponsor of the lesson.

Note: As courseware is at the heart of what we do, we are always in need of skilled professional Instructional Designers who can help us to create one or more storyboards for courses. If you are qualified for this role and have 30-40 hours to volunteer, please let us know!

Can you use our logo on your website and in your programs and materials?

Yes, we would love for you to use our logo (in either print or electronic format) to help us spread the word so we can reach more parents, teachers and students around the world! For example, you can add our logo on posters to promote the courses or add it to your website linking back to our home page. To get a copy, right click on our logo from our website and save it. If you need a higher resolution version of the logo, contact us at info@e-learningforkids.org and we will mail you one.

I am a for-profit organization and would like to resell/distribute EFK courses. Can I do this?

Yes. EFK works with a variety of for-profit companies. We would need to learn more about you and discuss in further detail to see how we can work together but below are three examples of how we might work with you:

1. You would link directly to our website for access to our courseware.
2. You would host our courses on your LMS or servers or distribute our existing courses on CD ROMS. We will work out a contract with you and an agreed-upon fee.
3. You would translate our courses and then host them on your servers or distribute on CD ROMs (and EFK can also make them available for free.) We will work out a contract with you and an agreed-upon fee for doing this.

Courseware:

Are the courses designed for a specific curriculum?

The design and development of courses are guided by learning topics which are part of the International Baccalaureate curriculum which is used in 138 countries. In addition to this, we have developed a number of courses which supplement a typical primary school curriculum. Many topics are universal in nature (e.g. multiplication) and can fit in any primary school curriculum around the world.

How can e-learning for Kids courseware be used?

Depending on the proficiency level of a child in specific subject areas, as well as the availability and quality of education, the courseware can be used to:

- Support an existing classroom curriculum
- Provide additional practice
- Supplement an existing curriculum
- Support homeschooling

How to do you provide high quality courses?

The e-Learning for Kids Foundation has developed quality standards and guidelines for Instructional Design which are continually enhanced based on feedback from teachers and children. We use learning and training professionals for our courseware design and development.

How can I help to improve the courses?

We strive to make great e-learning courses but if you have noticed something which can be better in certain courses or find errors, please let us know by sending this information to info@e-learningforkids.org

How can I access the courses? What if I don't have access to the Internet or if it is too expensive or unreliable?

We provide courseware in several ways:

1. Online by direct access to all the courses over the Internet via the EFK portal/website at www.e-learningforkids.org. You just click on the course(s) you want (either by grade or by subject area) and that is it!
2. Offline via a CD-ROM or a local server. We can provide you with a download link that will allow you to make a CD-ROM to install the courseware. You can load this to a local server or install the courses directly from the CD-ROM to your computer(s). Note: Due to licensing restrictions or the design of the courses, not all courseware is available in this format. For example, many of the Health, Life Skills or English as a Second Language courses are not available offline.
3. Via our hardware partners who pre-load the EFK courseware on computers

How do I gain access to courses on a CD-ROM or obtain the files for my local server?

You must first agree to the terms of usage terms/requirements (courses cannot be changed, used commercially, must be accessed free of charge etc.) as well as estimate your expected usage (# of children and # of schools/locations) by filling out the appropriate form on the "Contact Us" page of the EFK site. Steps:

1. Send the completed form to: info@e-Learningforkids.org
2. Once this is reviewed and you are approved, we will send you instructions and a link to download the courseware and from which you can then make a CD-ROM to install on your computers
3. We will contact you periodically to let you know about new releases as well as contact you yearly so you can update us on your usage for our records

What subject areas are available? For what ages? What languages?

We provide over 200 courses for children ages 5-12 in Math, Science, Language Arts, Computers, English as a Second Language, Environmental, Health and Life Skills. All courses are available in English and several have also been translated and are available in Spanish, French, Portuguese and Indian English (voiceover only).

How about teenagers and older students?

Although our main focus are grades K-6, a separate site called e-Learning for Life was launched in 2010 as a branch foundation of e-Learning for Kids for older children (13+). These courses will focus on Information and Technology Skills, Life and Career Skills and Learning Innovation. We will continue to expand the offerings but the first set of courses will help expand computer literacy to teenagers all over the world. You can visit e-Learning for Life from the link provided on the EFK site.

Do students need a username and password to take course from the EFK site?

A username and password are not needed for the majority of the courses. For any that may require a password, the password is listed on the website so you do not have to contact us.

Can EFK track or contact the students who take the courses?

No, our tracking only tells us the country information, the number of unique users, and if they have been to our site before. We do not currently track at the student level.

Can you provide direct access to a module instead of sending your students to our site?

Absolutely, when you click on a module, you will see a URL. That is the link that you can provide a student if you want them only to take a specific module.

We would like to have the EFK courses in other languages. Is this possible?

We would be happy to evaluate this on a case by case basis. Please mail us a translation plan which includes the following:

- The number, and selection of e-Lessons you would like to translate
- How you will guarantee that the work will be done in high quality
- Your Quality Assurance process
- What companies will be involved in this project
- The timeline for completing this effort

We will review your translation plan and if your proposal is approved, we will contact you to discuss more details and draft a contract outlining the terms. In return for the source code for translation, you will agree to translate the e-lessons in the agreed-upon timeframe provided in the proposed plan as well as meet the quality standards agreed upon. After translation, EFK will be provided all the e-lessons to be published on the e-Learning for Kids portal and will make these available at **no cost**. Please note that e-Learning for Kids does not have resources (nor the funding) for the translation, the coordination, and the many project management activities required for translations projects.

How will I know when you add new courses?

Send us a email at info@e-learningforkids.org and we will add you to our newsletter distribution list. New courses are announced periodically in our mailings.

Can you give me detailed examples as to how the courses are used globally?

Eight examples of proven pedagogical usage models include:

Example 1

The teacher will give a brief introduction on a specific topic (e.g. multiplications) in front of the class. After this, the teacher will ask the children to take a specific e-Learning for Kids course (from the Math curriculum in this example) in small groups or individually. The teacher will walk around, monitor progress, and help children where needed.

Example 2

The teacher will access and launch an e-Learning for Kids course in front of the class and project the course on a screen for all to see. He/she will ask children related questions and get answers on the various exercises. After the course has been completed in front of the class, the teacher may ask the children to go to their computers in groups or individually and take the same course and/or take a more advanced course on the same topic.

Example 3

The teacher will explain a subject in the class and ask the children to take an e-Learning for Kids course on this subject as part of their homework. (Depending on the availability of computers at the school, the children can take the course in the computer room at school or in the afterschool care center or other such facility equipped with computers or at home). The teacher will follow up with the children in the classroom and explore if any of them ran into difficulties doing their assignment(s).

Examples 4

The teacher requests children who have challenges with specific subjects to take additional e-Learning for Kids courses (in school or at home) in order to enhance their proficiency level. The courses will provide additional insights into the subject matter as well as practice opportunities.

Example 5

Children who are ahead of the “average” child in the class in certain subject areas may be asked to take advanced e-Learning for Kids courses in certain subject areas to further stimulate their interest and leverage their talent.

Example 6

A number of courses can be recommended by the teacher to children for additional practice of difficult topics. For example, children are asked to take courses on fractions to have more opportunities to develop their competences and skills by completing additional exercises.

Example 7

There might not be enough time in the existing school time/curriculum to develop competences in certain areas which are considered important or of general interest for children (e.g. computer skills, health education, life skills or even learning another language.) The teacher may encourage children to take e-Learning for Kids courses in a computer room at school or at home.

Example 8

The e-Learning for Kids courses are taken as part of homeschooling. Parents will instruct their child to take a number of courses and provide them with help/support as necessary as a way to supplement the homeschooling requirements.

Other:

The e-Learning for Kids courses are prescribed by teachers or parents not only as a way to supplement formal curriculum opportunities as described above, but also to make learning “fun”, allow children to learn at their own pace, and informally teach them to take charge/be in control of their own learning.

Technical

What are the minimum system requirements for running the courseware?

- Operating System: Windows® 98, ME, 2000, XP
- RAM: At least 256MB
- Flash Player: Flash Player 7 or above
- Microsoft Internet Explorer: 6.0 or higher
- VGA Monitor Resolution: 1024 X 768 px.
- Processor: Pentium III 300 MHz or above
- Speaker and sound drivers installed

Will the EFK courses run on the Macintosh Operating System?

Some courses work on Mac machines, but others do not as some courses were not developed to be compatible with the Mac machines. Also, some Mac machines may have different configurations. It is recommended to take the courses on Microsoft compatible PC machines with the above system requirements.

I found a problem or bug with one of the courses. What should I do?

We do our best to ensure our EFK courses are reviewed and bug free. But if you find an error, please contact us at info@e-learningforkids.org with the following information so you can help us to solve the problem:

- Name of the course :
- Browser that you were using
- Explain the problem
- Explain the section of the course where the error occurred. (You may want to make a Print Screen of the problem by pressing the Print screen button on the keyboard and sending this to us as part of the data.)

Note: Sometimes your Flash Player settings or your pop-up blocker is not enabled. Before taking any course make sure that both of these options are enabled.

How do I enable Flash Player Security settings?

- **Step 1:** Access the below URL from the Adobe's site
http://www.macromedia.com/support/documentation/en/flashplayer/help/settings_manager04.html
- **Step 2:** Confirm that the “**Always allow**” radio button is selected
- **Step 3:** Now click on the “**Edit locations**” drop down and click on the “**Add Location**” hyperlink
- **Step 4:** Add the complete path of the directory where the course launch page resides. Do not add the path including the “**Launch.html**” page
- For example, if the launch page resides on the path “**D:\[Course Folder Name][launch page of the course]**”, then add the location “**D:\ [Course Folder Name]**” or make the settings for the entire drive, “**D:**”
- **Step 5:** Click on the Confirm button. Close the browser and launch the course again

Can EFK Courses run on a Learning Management System and are they SCORM compliant?

No. The EFK courses are not SCORM compliant, but you can host them on a Learning Management System through our Offline Usage option.

Is there a preferred browser to use when taking the EFK courses? Does it matter if using a PC or a MAC?

Since the majority of the EFK courses use Macromedia Flash software, it is recommended that courses be taken via the the Firefox and/or Internet Explorer browsers as the Safari browser may not support some of the necessary plug-ins for displaying content or for course navigation.