

Besides being another tool for education, are there any other benefits in having computers in our school? The answer to that is yes. First of all, the world around us is full of computers. There is hardly a work place that does not use a computer in some way. Our students' familiarity with a computer now will help them in times to come. Skills our students gain with a com-

puter will stand them in good stead in high school and even into college. But there is something else that I would like you to ponder. I believe that the computer will be the tool of the devil to bring about the kingdom of antichrist. Is it not good that our covenant children have some computer skills so that they can recognize this evil use? What do you think? ■■■

TEACHING OUR CHILDREN TO WRITE

Writers in Progress

Barb Hunter

"Ga-ga," the baby says, and mother and father exclaim with joy, "Did you hear that? Baby said his first word, Da-Da! Good baby, we're so proud of you. Come, say it again for me."

The baby takes his first two steps and the news is spread to family and friends. Everyone is proud of the baby.

Not many would say to the baby, "No. It's not ga-ga. It is daddy. Don't say it again until you have it right."

When the baby falls after two steps his family doesn't usually tell him he did a terrible job of walking.

When a child makes his first attempts at writing, he is not always so greatly encouraged by family and friends — especially if it was the wall on which he

scribbled. Even if he has scribbled on paper, our praise is often an empty, "Isn't that nice?" Maybe the child is attempting to draw or even write words. We might say, "Here, let me show you how to draw a house" or "This is the way to spell cat, don't you know?" (Brothers and sisters are good at that one.)

If we consider these first scribbles, drawings, and collections of letters to be a child's very first attempts at communicating with symbols, we should be just as ecstatic as we are when they first attempt to speak or walk. Just think how much praise and encouragement we give to help them speak and walk. How much praise do we give when they first attempt to write?

In our kindergarten and first

grade class we can't spell a lot of words. We haven't learned how to print all the letters yet, nor do we know all the sounds they make. But we are writing anyway, and doing a good job of it. We write the best we can. Sometimes we scribble something that looks like cursive. Other times we draw a picture and maybe write some words. If we know some letter sounds we might write them. When we are finished writing we read it to our teacher and she might type it on the com-

puter or print it as we read it. Then we read it to our classmates. We enjoy writing. We like to share our beginning writing with others. Sometimes it is hanging in the hallway or in our room. We each have a file with our own writings in them and we have our own writing books. Please ignore our mistakes and just enjoy our stories, for we are only just beginning to write. We need lots of praise and encouragement. We are writers in progress. ■■■

CHRISTMAS TRUE

Viola DeBoer

I heard Christmas when upon my ear
Fell the tinkle of a bell, so crisp and clear.
I saw Christmas in the eyes
Of one little boy bursting with surprise.
I felt Christmas in the velvet touch
Of a Christmas dress that meant so much.
I smelled Christmas in the new cut pine
And in the home that I call mine.
I tasted Christmas in the new snowfall
But. . . that really isn't Christmas at all.

For Christmas is a babe, the Son,
The Begotten of God, the Holy One.
Christmas is a birth so low
That Christmas is a manger — yes,
But even more, a cross so blest.
How blest the night when broke open the skies
Resounding with the angelic cries,
Of "Holy, Holy, Holy,
Go to see the birth so lowly!"