



Project Spotlight: Ghana

Project Name: To Be Worldwide

Website: <http://www.tobeworldwide.org/>

Overview: Founded in 2002, To Be Worldwide builds and operates Educational Resource Centres for children from 6 to 15 in Ghana that include a computer lab, children's library, and lessons program. They work with local schools to provide computer lessons during school hours as well as access to the library and offer a wide range of activities for after school. Children pay a nominal fee to use the centre, thereby ensuring commitment. The first centre is located in Takoradi, a four-hour drive from Accra, and serves eight local schools. The second centre just opened in Cape Coast. In total, there is the potential to reach 10,500 children. The e-Learning for Kids (EFK) courseware was introduced in Takoradi in 2006 and since that time has reached approximately 2,500 kids.

Usage: EFK was chosen for its fun yet educational approach, the volume of courses available, and for the ongoing development of new courses. Once a child has completed his or her Basic Computer Skills course, they are given access to the other EFK material. Children use the EFK courses to work on subjects that are similar to their school work or to learn more about a subject area such as math. The courseware is also used by the teachers to motivate the children as well as to bring in some fun moments. Children who are at the Centre taking their Computer Skills courses use EFK on a daily basis. For other kids, usage may be once a week. Since 40 computers are available, computers (and headphones) do not have to be shared. The courses run from a server with English, Reading, Typing Skills, and Math being the most popular. They plan to continue to use the EFK courses and to be more active on the remedial teaching front. The EFK courseware will be a great source in this endeavor.

Impact: Children are very motivated to use the courseware. Besides accessing the e-Lessons assigned by teachers, they also enjoy taking additional ones. It has helped the kids improve on school subjects and they like that they can repeat the courses as necessary until they understand fully the material and/or pause and continue at will. EFK also supports their mission to help children reach their full potential, obtain a sound base for the future, and get the skills to contribute to developing their community.

"I like it because it is educative. I think that the program is very good and should be encouraged." —Paul, student, Takoradi Resource Centre

"I like it because it is entertaining. It has helped my brain to function more easily and faster in math and science courses." —Mina, student, Takoradi Resource Centre