
Informatique Services Plus, Inc. *Playing 'N' Learning! — Beginner (5 to 7 years old) / J'apprends en m'amusant — Débutant (5 à 7 ans).*

Computer CD-ROM. Québec: Informatique Services Plus Inc., 2006. ISBN: 2-923442-00-8. Single-user price: \$29.95 CAN (plus shipping and handling). Multi-user computer laboratory price: \$249.95 CAN (plus shipping and handling). For orders and information please contact the publisher: Les Éditions RDL, 102, rue Féré, Saint-Eustache (Québec) J7R 2T5 Canada. Toll Free Tel: (866) 632-1809. E-mail: info@editionsrdl.com; Webpage: www.editionsrdl.com

Informatique Services Plus Inc. has expanded its *J'apprends en m'amusant 5 à 7 ans (vols. 1 & 2)* [2005] and now offers *Playing 'N' Learning! — Beginner (5 to 7 years old)/J'apprends en m'amusant — Débutant (5 à 7 ans)*. The newly updated computer CD-ROM provides not only fun and challenging activities in French and English but now also incorporates the same activities in Spanish. Therefore, it would be ideally suited for an elementary school (FLES) setting, in both French- and Spanish-immersion classes.

For each language, *Playing 'N' Learning! — Beginner/J'apprends en m'amusant — Débutant* provides thirty different types of educational activities with more than 600 exercises. The activities have two levels of difficulty. Level One activities include: the Alphabet; Professions; the Intruder; Space Concept; A Little Story; the Human Body; Instructions; Alphabetical Order; the Right Number; Who Am I?; Increasing/Decreasing; What Do I Eat?; Large to Small; As Many, More, Less; Logical Orders; Memorization; Emotions; The Right One; and In or Out. Level Two activities

include: Organize the Words; Money; Emotions; Who Am I?; Words to Find; A Little Story; An Action; The Right Number; Large to Small; Instructions; Increasing/Decreasing; Sudoku; Space Concept; Small to Large; Small Problems; Words to Write; Memorization; Alphabetical Order; Find the Rank; and Ordered Numbers.

This reviewer's favorite activity at both levels was probably "A Little Story." In this activity, users can listen to and read a story which they must then recreate with images, whereby comprehension is reinforced as well as assessed. At level one, this activity features ten stories; at level two, it features the same number of stories but includes two levels of difficulty. Also noteworthy are the sections titled "Small Problems," where the user must select the right answer to the problems from among three choices randomly picked for each problem, and "Space Concept," where, in the first part, the user works with ten themes on "up," "down," "to the left," and "to the right;" in the second part, the user works with "above," "under;" "in front of;" and "behind;" and, in the third part, the user works on "up to the left," "up to the right," "down to the left," and "down to the right."

Furthermore, this reviewer particularly likes the fact that this program incorporates multi-tasked activities. In other terms, some of the activities combine language and math skills, such as "As Many, More, Less" and "Ordered Numbers." This Level One activity gives the user the choice to work with images and with the words "as," "more," and "less" and consequently enhances the development of a child's multiple intelligences. It is fairly well known that language and math skills are "left-brain" activities. Thus, to combine both skills in a single computer activity provides a dual benefit to the child's intellectual development as the acquisition of language and development of math skills complement each another.

Teachers who use *Playing 'N' Learning! — Beginner/J'apprends en m'amusant — Débutant* will enjoy the fact that it allows multiple users to access it and that each student has a continually updating score sheet that is easily maintained for the entire school year. Therefore, each time a student logs on, his/her score is automatically recalculated. In addition, students are able to change their "language" even when already engaged in an activity.

The only suggestion that this reviewer would make to the authors at Les Éditions RDL is to have an experienced copy editor review the user's manual as well as its cover art. For example, in addition to minor typographical errors, the manual gives the title in English and French but not Spanish despite the fact that Spanish can be found immediately below the two titles: "Documentation/Manuel/Guía." Moreover, the box cover gives the title in English and French and immediately below states "English, Français, Español," but the Spanish title is still omitted. Since Les Éditions RDL intentionally revised its original offerings of *J'apprends en m'amusant 5 à 7 ans (vols. 1 & 2)* to include Spanish, why not include the Spanish equivalent of the title? After all, as the product is aimed at children ages five to seven and its goal is to improve foreign language skills, consistency and accuracy are imperative.

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