

Kitt

THE LEARNING COMPANION

PLAY • LEARN • INSPIRE



Starter Kitt

An Introductory Activity Guide



What is Kitt?

Kitt is a versatile, non-moving robot with embedded microphone, camera, and speaker system. He does not need additional devices or the internet to work and can therefore support learning anywhere.

Kitt is not intended to be a complex ICT tool but rather a simple device that can be used by any child of primary age and above, in all areas of the curriculum and at home.



How does Kitt appeal to children?

It is well researched and understood how positively children respond to inanimate 'friends' such as puppets in the classroom. Many teachers know how well they can motivate even the most reluctant children and provide extra interest and engagement. Kitt does this with bells on!

Kitt's companionship features - moving eyes, cute voice, response to movement and touch, lighting up in different colours, getting sleepy and waking up - all enhance children's engagement with him. They want to help and please him!

Introducing Kitt to your class, child, or group

Introduce Kitt in a special way. Make a song and dance about it!

An illustrated storybook is available, depicting Kitt's journey from a factory shelf to a school and with a special message from Kitt included.

However, with or without the book, you will have your own ideas about how Kitt came to be with you! It could be a mystery; perhaps he arrives with a letter, or perhaps he came from outer space!

The more special and important Kitt seems, the greater value he will have for the children.



Personalise your Kitts

Special clothes are available, but children could also make their own.

Where will Kitt live?
Where will he sleep?
Children might make houses or beds.

If you have more than one Kitt, think about how you might differentiate them – numbering or naming them perhaps?



What is the best way to explain how Kitt works?

A versatile **PowerPoint** presentation is available and goes through each of Kitt's features one by one. You may want to introduce them one or two at a time. You may not want to use all of them. The slides can be chosen and rearranged however you like.

Much more content is planned for the near future, linked to specific areas of the whole curriculum.

Please also see our Kitt SENCo Guide for how to use Kitt to support your SEND learners.

Getting Started

How you use Kitt will obviously depend on how many Kitts you have available for group or individual use, and whether they can be sent home with children.

The following pages are intended to give a few thoughts and starter activities based on four of Kitt's functions:

- [Classroom Timer](#)
- [Audio Recorder](#)
- [Camera](#)
- [Video Recorder](#)



Classroom Timer



A timer is a brilliant tool for any busy classroom but linking it to a real character like Kitt can have extra advantages!

Focussed time

- Set the Classroom Timer as an incentive for an individual or group.
- Kitt can sit with the child/children to 'see' what they are doing and help them focus on the task.
- When the alarm goes off, children might have 5 minutes to play with Kitt as a reward for good concentration.

Clean up time!

- Use Kitt as an incentive to clear up after an activity or at the end of the day. "Kitt loves everything to be clean and tidy!"
- Set the timer for an appropriate time, then see if it can all be done before the alarm goes off.



Ready for PE?

- Explain that Kitt wants to see if everyone can be ready for their PE lesson before his alarm goes off.
- Set the timer for 10 minutes (or whatever is appropriate for your class or group).
- Is Kitt happy? Did everybody do their very best?





Pass it on!

- Set Kitt's classroom timer for between 1 and 4 minutes.
- Tell the children how long the timer is set for, but do not show Kitt counting down!
- Sit in a circle and pass an object around the group.
- The second Kitt's timer goes off, the person holding the object might be 'out', or might be chosen for something – to say what their favourite book is/spell a word/do a classroom job etc.



Parent's evening

- Use Kitt as a very non-threatening way to set a timer when talking to parents. It will be good for them to see him in action!
- Explain that this is one of the ways you use Kitt in the classroom!

One-to one

- Rather than a whole class timer (such as on an IWB) Kitt has the flexibility to be used as one-to-one device, allowing for individual timings to be set.
- A child with dyspraxia, for example, might need slightly longer to complete a task, but still benefit from the motivation of a timed challenge.

Audio Recorder



A few Audio Recorder ideas...

There are so many ways to use this function. You will no doubt think of many more ideas to add to the list!

Encourage independence

- Allow children to work independently by pre-recording yourself explaining a task.
- Children will be able to listen back to your instructions on Kitt as many times as they need to.
- Kitt could be set up ready for a lesson, giving you the chance to work with a focus group, for example, or perhaps to observe and make formative assessments.

Sing together!

- Kitt loves music and wants to learn as many songs as possible.
- Together, sing and record some of your favourite songs on Kitt.
- Play back, listen, and evaluate. Are you too fast or too slow? Are all the words clear?

What's that noise?

- Record some sounds that will be familiar to your class. (E.g., a bell, a creaky door, a piano, children at playtime etc.)
- Play them back. "Kitt would like you to listen very carefully to some sounds he has recorded.

Can you guess what they are and perhaps where they have come from?"

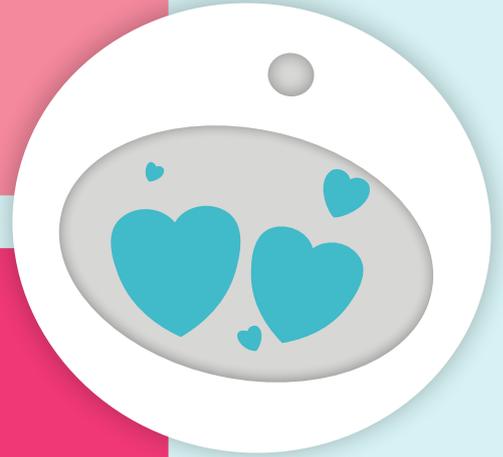
- Children might write down their answers and see how many they could identify.



Poetry

- Explain that Kitt loves poems – especially funny ones!
- Learn a poem together and use Kitt to record yourselves as a group.

Why not try this? It is one of Kitt's favourites!



Nobody Loves Me

Nobody loves me,
Everybody hates me,
Think I'll go and eat worms.

Big fat squishy ones,
Little thin skinny ones,
See how they wiggle and squirm.

Bite their heads off,
"Schlurp!" They're lovely,
Throw their tails away.

Nobody knows,
How big I grows,
On worms three times a day.



Interviews

- Ask children to interview a friend, parent or a relative on a suitable or relevant theme.
- Children should prepare their questions in advance and have them available to use as prompts.
- Use Kitt to record the interview.
- Children can then play it back to re-listen, make notes or write about it.

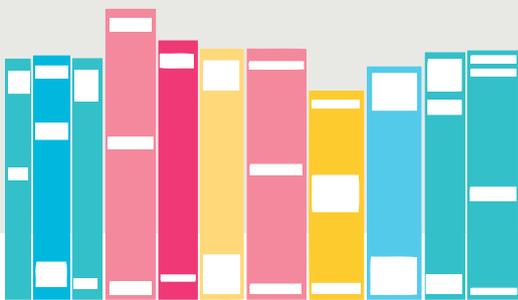


Record a group story

- This might be a re-telling of a familiar story or event, or (more challenging) one that is made-up as you go.
- Sit in a circle. Decide who will begin the story. (You might have allocated a part to each child in the group before starting.)
- The first child to speak starts the recording and says their part. Without stopping the recording, they pass Kitt to the next child who continues the story.

Teacher reads

- Children love hearing their own teacher read! Record favourite class stories onto Kitt, so they can be accessed at any time.
- Place Kitt in a reading area.
- Allow children to take Kitt home. (Wonderful for children who might not usually hear stories at home.)



Listen and read along

- Record stories on Kitt so that children may read along with their own copies. This might be a guided or class reading book.
- Reading in this way becomes multi-sensory and can help children who might otherwise be reluctant.
- It can also allow access to more challenging texts that are potentially of more interest.



Helping out

- Ask older children in the school to record stories for the younger ones.
- Many will love a reason to re-visit their own past favourite books and it will give a real purpose to practise reading aloud and with expression.

Kind words

- Explain that Kitt wants to learn about being kind.
- Choose one child at a time to be the focus of the session.
- Give the class or group time to think about this person and what they like about them.
- Sit in a circle and when ready, press the recording function. Each child in the group makes one positive comment about their classmate and passes Kitt to the next person.
- If possible, allow the chosen child to take Kitt home to share what people have said about him/her.



Teacher messages 1

- Use Kitt to record and send home messages about individual children for their parents/carers.
- You might be telling them about something a child has done that has been particularly good, "I'm so proud of Harry today, he was sharing so well with his friends and being very kind."

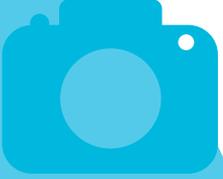
Teacher messages 2

- Use Kitt to explain homework tasks, so that children and their parents/carers can listen back to it and understand exactly what is required and for when.

Podcasts

- Talk about 'podcasts'. The word comes from 'ipod' and 'broadcast'. They are digital audio files that can be downloaded via the internet onto computers and portable media devices.
- Listen to a few suitable podcasts together. They might be linked to a topic you are doing.
- Tell the children they are going to record their own podcasts onto Kitt. You might give them a theme or leave it completely up to them. It might be factual and documentary style or a short play, story, or comedy.
- Give a time limit of 5 minutes as the length of the podcast. (You are looking for quality over quantity!)
- Play the completed shows from Kitt so that the whole class can listen and evaluate what they have done.





Camera

A few ideas for using Kitt's Camera

When taking photos with Kitt, make sure he is facing towards you. This way you can see exactly how your picture will look before it is taken. The timer will count down to allow time to prepare.

Talk with children about how Kitt has the capacity to store an incredible number of photographs, but that it is still important to think carefully about what they want to take. Remind children that you will have access to all their photographs.

Keep a record

- Kitt may be used to photograph anything children may want to keep a record of. It might be something that would otherwise be lost, e.g.
 - A picture or writing on a whiteboard,
 - A model from construction equipment,
 - A jigsaw they managed to finish.
- The photos may be stored in individual folders or printed out if required.

Phonic photos

- Ask children to find and photograph as many objects as they can beginning with the n sound (or whatever letter/sound you are working on).
- Children might take a photograph of each object or may prefer to gather a few together for one picture.



Photo story

- Ask children to take a particular number of photos (e.g., five) using Kitt.
- Once they have their photos, explain that they should now write a story which includes the subjects of those photos in some way!
- The photos could be printed out to add to children's text.



Colour photography

- Set children the challenge to find and photograph as many things as they can find of one certain colour.
- Which colours are there lots of, in your classroom for example?
- Will it be the same outdoors?
- Which colours are harder to find?

Selfies

- Ask children to take their self-portrait, then write or record a description of themselves. (You might provide a template.)
- Place the description with Kitt.
- Other children should read or listen to the description and make a guess about who it is.
- Once decided, they can check the photo on Kitt to see if they were right!

Photo sharing

- Taking a photo on Kitt is a great way for children to be able to have a record of something they are proud of to share and talk about at home.
- It might be they have written their whole name for the first time, they have managed a whole page of writing or done a brilliant painting. It could be anything they would like to share!
- This is a wonderful way to make connections between school and home and boost children's self-esteem.



Video Recorder

Videos are such a great tool for both teachers and children, enabling reflective learning as well as important information to be captured and used in all kinds of ways.

Practice makes perfect!

- Children can use Kitt when they are practising. It might be a song, a reading or even a dance!
- They can watch themselves back and decide what they would like to improve – or see that it is already perfect!



Teacher demos

- Kitt can be used to record explanations and demonstrations of any number of things to help a group or individuals.
- You might show (for example):
 - How the grid method works.
 - How to write letters or numbers correctly.
 - How to use speech marks in a sentence.
- Children will then be able to watch your explanation and refer to it whenever they like.



Sharing made easy

- Many times, children have important things going on at home they would like to share. Why not let them take Kitt home to record some of these memorable events?
- They might have a brand-new puppy, a hamster, a new brother or sister, a bike, they might have re-arranged or decorated their bedroom. It could be any number of things they would love to be able to share with friends at school.
- Children could make recordings for just a few people to see on Kitt. Or they might be shared on your IWB.

Jackanory revisited!

- Ask a selection of people to record themselves reading or perhaps better still, telling a story. They can then use facial expressions, movements for emphasis or even show pictures or props.
- Older children might record themselves for younger ones.
- Parents or relatives might have excellent story-telling skills to put to good use on Kitt!

Explanations

- Just as the teacher might record an explanation, children could do the same.
- It might be as part of your ongoing assessment, such as a child explaining how they came to a certain conclusion in a maths topic, or a literacy comprehension.



Video diary

- In the same way that a special teddy or toy is sent home for children to have for the weekend or a holiday, children might get to take Kitt home.
- Ask them to keep a video diary of their time.
- The videos could then be shared with the class.