Downloading Computer Software to Video

September 1999

This month's tip is from Caroline Musselwhite. Thanks Caroline! Not only is this a great way to create a home-school link, it is also a wonderful idea for those having to give presentations who don't want to deal with computing at the same time!

Downloading Computer Software to Video

GOAL: Take any software and "download" it to a VHS so kids can see it at home (obviously, you need to have the copyright on this software, but you can do this with anything you make!)

MATERIALS:
Mac A-V Card or G3 AV Ready
Cables - yellow & white phone plugs on both ends
(I decided to just try the cables that came with my videocamera -
Voila! They worked!)
VCR with audio and video in ports (must be near computer)

PROCEDURE:
1) Attach cables from Audio Out port on computer to Audio In port on VCR, from Video Out port on computer to Video In port on VCR
note - I had to get an adaptor from Radio Shack to make this work - it converted from Phone Plug to stereo mini plug - I just took the cable into Radio Shack and told them what I wanted to do in my best Southern accent and it worked!

2) Pull up the software you want to use on your computer (e.g., IntelliPics Cash for Trash)

3) Put a blank tape in your VCR and turn on VCR

4a) PowerMac Instructions: Go into Control Panels, Monitors, Options - select Display Video on Television - your computer monitor will go blank (gasp!)

Here's the tricky part - makes my little heart go pitter patter just to think about it!
I typically press every button on my TV/VCR handset until I find the right one, and just tried them all to figure it out - then I remembered

that I DID put this on my computer - press ⬚ on your remote handset, and it should show the computer screen on your VCR monitor.

4b) G3 Instructions: Open Control Tab on bottom left of monitor; choose Monitor icon; select ; you will get a message telling you to be sure a tv monitor is connected - you may have to

select [   ] on your TV remote handset (see 4a, above); if you see the picture on your monitor, select OK and you will see the picture on your computer AND on your TV monitor.

5) Press on your VCR, then immediately start running the desired program on the computer. When finished, press on your VCR, rewind and see if it worked, redo if necessary, until you have what you want.

Good luck! Let me know how it goes (remember, if you have a TechnoAce with you when you try this, it will be FAR less stressful!)