

Great Web Sites for Kids Criteria Worksheet

The GWS Committee has developed the following criteria/guidelines for evaluating sites to be considered for the Great Web Sites for Kids site. "Children" are defined as persons of ages up to and including fourteen and Web sites for this entire age range are considered.

This worksheet is intended to help you keep track of all the information you are looking for as you evaluate sites for possible inclusion on the GWS for Kids site. Please refer to Part II : Selection Criteria in your manual for clarification in any of the areas.

Name of site:

URL of web page:

Web browser:

Section 1: Design and Stability	Yes	No
Does the page load in a reasonable amount of time?		
• Is it consistently available?		
Do the pictures, animations, graphics, sounds, etc. add to the information on the page?		
Is the spelling and grammar correct on the page?		
Is the design with heading and subheading appropriate for the intended audience?		
Is the site ADA compliant as much as possible?		
Is the information on the site easy to find and use?		
• Is the site easy to navigate?		
Is the site appealing, easy to read and not too cluttered with distracting fonts or backgrounds?		
Are links well organized and working?		
On supporting pages on the site is there a link back to the home page?		
Are interactive features explained clearly?		
Is personal information required to use the site?		
Are plug-ins identified?		
Are playing instructions included if there is a game?		

Section 2: Authorship	Yes	No
Is the author of the site clearly stated?		
Is the organization the author is affiliated with clearly stated?		
Is there a source for the information on the page?		
Is there a way to contact the author?		
Is there a date on the page of when it was last updated?		
• If so is it current?		
Do others think this is a reputable page?		
*Do a <i>link</i> command in a search engine to see who links to this page		
Dos this site knowingly violate copyright statues or other laws?		
Does the domain of the page influence your decision about the page?		
• .edu, .com, .org, .gov		

*To use the *link* command: open your favorite search engine. The query link: will list web pages that have links to the specified webpage. For instance, link:www.google.com will list web pages that have links pointing to the Google homepage. Note there can be no space between the "link:" and the web page url.

Section 3: Purpose	Yes	No
Is the purpose of the site clear?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate, entertain, persuade, sell 		
Is advertising limited and appropriate?		
Does up to date information matter for the purpose of the site?		
Did the information on the site lead you to other sources that were useful?		
Does the information on the site seem biased?		
Does the information contradict something you found somewhere else?		
Does the site enrich the user's experience?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would they want to come back and/or bookmark the site? 		

Section 4: Content	Yes	No
Does the title of the page indicate its purpose and content?		
Is the site an appropriate reading and interest level for the age group?		
Is the site's purpose indicated on the home page?		
Are there links to more information?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are those links active and up to date? 		
Are the graphics relevant and appropriate to the content?		
Is the subject matter relevant and appropriate for the intended audience?		
Is the viewpoint presented easily understood by the intended audience?		
Are the skills required to use the site appropriate for the intended audience?		

Evaluation Notes:

Recommend for inclusion on GWS for Kids? YES NO

Pencil Rating:



Appropriate for PreK aged youth



Appropriate for Elementary aged youth



Appropriate for Middle School aged youth



For Parents/Teachers/Caregivers

Summary for web site: