PLAYPOWER: A $12 COMPUTER

FOR RADICALLY AFFORDABLE LEARNING GAMES

The Playpower Foundation seeks to improve education around the world by using $12 "TV-Computers" as a platform for radically affordable learning games that can teach skills like math, grammar, typing, critical thinking, computer programming, and more.

A TV-Computer uses a TV as a display, has a full keyboard, mouse, and game controllers, but retails for only US$12. This price point is possible because the computer is based on a famous 8-bit processor that is now in the *public domain*, due to expired patents.

Playpower is creating an open-source Software Development Kit (SDK) that will make it easy for developers around the world to design their own culturally-specific multi-lingual learning games on the world's least expensive home computer. In order to connect our global collaborators in Africa, India, China and Latin America, we have created an online community for the open-source development of these learning games at playpower.org.

Recent studies have demonstrated that simple computer-aided learning games are highly effective in developing countries (see research.playpower.org). Even basic skills can open up real economic opportunities--in Ghana or India, for instance, typing skills can mean the difference between making $1/day and a $1/hour, from farmer to office clerk.

Our goal is to produce a suite of 8-bit learning games targeted at the 130 million households in the emerging middle classes of developing countries. We are working with educators, cognitive scientists, anthropologists, designers, hackers, programmers, manufacturers and distributors in order to reach 30 million children in the next 5 years through our scientifically developed and radically affordable computer-aided learning games.

THINK YOU CAN HELP?

visit playpower.org

OR SEND US EMAIL AT CONTACTUS@PLAYPOWER.ORG