

Fishbowl Discussion – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008

### **On why you like Scratch.**

“I like that you can actually control the computer. Tell it what to do.”

“I enjoy it because it teaches you how to solve your own problems without having someone beside you all the time telling you how to do it.

“I like it because it’s a challenge. A challenge helps things to be fun and not boring.”

“I like the creative aspect of scratch.”

“It makes you think. It doesn’t just do things for you. You have to see how it’s working and if it’s not, you have to figure out why it’s not and fix it.”

“Scratch makes me look at things on TV and in video games and think about how they were made.”

“I think it’s cool because you can put it on the internet and you can see how all your programs work on the internet.”

“I like that it works on both Mac and PC so I can take my project home with me and work on it there.”

“I like it because it’s taught me patience. Nothing happens right away. You have to work for it.”

“There is no magic genie to make things work” (in reference to above).

“It makes me proud of myself because I have to figure it out.”

“I really like that we can record our own sounds.”

“It can really represent you because it’s your own ideas that come out in the program.”

“I like that you can make two characters chase each other and make them change and it’s really cool how you can make them do different things. It’s like I’m controlling the computer instead of the computer controlling you.”

### **On what frustrates us about Scratch.**

“I think it’s stressful because if you have this really cool idea and you go into scratch, sometimes you can’t do it because you don’t know how.”

“At the beginning, you don’t understand so it’s frustrating on how to make something work”

“I sometimes gets me all worked up, not calmed down because I can’t figure out how to do something in the program.”

“Sometimes I dislike it because you build a script and click the green flag and it won’t work. So you try it again and again and again but it just won’t work.”

“The thing that I dislike about scratch is that if your doing the scripts it jjust won’t work.”

“I don’t like the variables in scratch because I’ve tried to do it lots of times but I can’t figure out the variables.

“I don’t understand the backgrounds. It is hard to change the background and get the sprites to disappear.”

“It’s confusting because there are a whole bunch of little things on the side that say what the sprites are doing and there are so many different categories but you don’t know what they all do.”

“It seems really easy to just get a sprite and make a script but it’s actually really hard to get the sprite to do just what you want it to do.”

“When you make the video it’s exactly how you want it but when you put it on the internet, some things change.

“You don’t always get what you want. It is hard to figure out sometimes.”

“The thing I dislike is that when you see something that someone else does and you think it’s cool, you can’t always figure out how they did it.”

### **On what to do when things don’t work.**

“Sometimes I get angry and sit there for a minute. Then I go back and try to figure out how I can change the script to make it work.”

“what I do is get angry for a minute and then cut out the whole script and do it all over.”

“I will try for awhile, then I will ask someone. Then if he/she doesn’t know how to then I’ll try something else.”

“I will ask others and if they don’t know, I will try something.”

“Well, if I can’t get it working then I try something else to get it working. I’ll change the script in some way or change the sprites and try it again.”

“I scream at the computer. I try to be patient and take blocks out and try again. Then I put blocks back in and try it again.”

“On scratch, when I run into a problem, I go to the little dock on the top and press ‘help’ and then I type in my question and it often tells me how to solve it.”

"I try not to get mad but I try all the other possibilities and see what happens. But first, I think about what I'm doing and review what I did to get to where I am."

"I search through the categories and try to find different blocks that might work instead of the ones that I have in there already."

"I'm quite different than most people because they all try to be calm. I get VERY mad at the computer but I don't hit it....because it's not human."

### **Does scratch help you understand what we are studying in school?**

"I think that it doesn't really. It's just a fun thing to use because we didn't need to and it just makes us frustrated sometimes. I think that it's just for fun."

"Scratch doesn't have much educational value. It could if we did the right project it could be but it's mostly just for fun."

"I think that it can be educational because when we created the plant cell, it helped me to remember the parts of the cell."

"I think it's educational because it makes you think about where everything is and what it does." (referencing the plant cell project.)

"It is educational because it lets you do whatever you want."

"The uploading part actually teaches you how to upload things to the internet."

"It depends on what you're doing on scratch as to whether it's educational or not."

"It is educational because it teaches us to be patient and how to solve problems. I think that it will help us for the future because of the skills it gives us."

"You can do millions of things with scratch. The possibilities are endless but there is one little problem with it.....?"

"Scratch is educational because you can do all your school projects by using the program. It's FUN."

"You can make your work look like fun. Like for example, in math today, instead of marking and doing everything in our notebooks, perhaps we could create a program in scratch that shows how we know stuff."

"Scratch isn't educational because it doesn't teach you anything. It doesn't show you anything. You make everything happen. If you showed something to someone else, it could be educational for them but not for you."

"fun and interesting work put together."

"...but you gotta admit that the computer can be really stubborn. It won't do what you want it to do."

