JUNIOR AND SENIOR INFANTS: CODING BEEBOTS IN LITERACY STATIONS

BACKGROUND

The Children are working on initial phonemes, name recognition, syllabication and rhyming in their literacy stations. They are also learning about directions of left and right using appropriate rhyme and songs.

Children are familiar with BeeBots and have used them in the classroom before. They can code the devices using simple functions: forward, backward, left and right. Children practice at 'being the BeeBot' by using simple grids made from A4 card to manoeuvre around a basic maze.

TASK

The classroom has been set up set up with 4 stations using specifically designed Beebot mats:

(a) Letters mat, (b) Names grid, (c) City map, (d) Farm map.

The children move around the stations and carry out instructions using the BeeBots for each activity.

The activities include:

1. Moving the BeeBot to the initial phoneme of the word provided by the teacher.
2. Identification of the children's own names and move the BeeBot to their name.
3. Counting the syllables in a particular word and moving the BeeBot that many spaces.
4. Matching animals with rhyming words for example, jig-pig, now-cow.

The children moved from one station to the next after approximately 6 minutes.

They programmed the BeeBots using the correct number of functions to reach their destination for each activity. Remembering to use the 'X' function on the Beebot to reset the device for each new attempt.

They worked collaboratively to choose the best path and 'debug' where necessary with the teacher acting as a facilitator.