Webkinz – Stuffed Animals that Come to Life on your Computer.

By Katherine Betrus (age 6)

First things first, you have to buy a real Webkinz stuffed animal at a store. Then you bring it home, find the tag with the code (usually attached to a leg), go to webkinz.com, and enter your code. You will have to name your animal. You can name it anything you want, which makes it belong to you more.

What your real stuffed animal looks like is what it looks like on the computer. When it's a rabbit, it jumps, when it's a fish, it swims (in a bubble), and if it walks, it walks. My four favorite Webkinz are Kermit the Gecko, Emily the Dragon, Stinky the Skunk, and Daisy the Pink Pony. Oh, and don't forget about Squirty the Elephant, because he was my first one.

Almost every time you get a pet, you get a room. You can buy more rooms with KinzCash. It cost more money for bigger rooms and less money for smaller rooms. If it's a bedroom, you probably should put beds down, at least one. If you want, you can make a Webkin share a room with another Webkin. I took all the stuff from Stinky's room and put it in Kermit's room so they could share a room together. I made a kitchen with Stinky's room. [**Tip**: Webkinz can share bedrooms. You do this to save money, because you can use one of the rooms for a Kitchen or Bathroom or a Play Room.]

You can go to the W-Shop to buy stuff for your rooms. You can put stuff on the wall, like pictures and windows. You can change the floor by painting. [**Tip**: *Don't put pictures over decorated wallpaper*.] You can pick furniture you can sit in or sleep in, like a bed, or chair, or couch. If you find one that you like you can click on it and it shows it close-up. Next to the close-up picture is information about it, like what it is. Underneath the picture it shows how much it costs. You have to check to see if you have enough KinzCash to buy it. You can't just buy anything. You have to have at least as much money as an item costs. Sometimes you have to do a little math to see how much money you have left. There is a running total that shows how much you would have left after you check out. Once you check out, it will show you all of the things you are buying. You can remove items if you don't want to buy it. [**Tip**: If you only have as much money as the item costs, then you shouldn't buy it because then you won't have any money left.]

There are lots of things do to do in Webkinz World. You can hunt for gems, but only once each day. You collect the gems you find. [**Tip**: *If you find a gem you know you already have, you should sell it.*] If you don't already have a gem, you should keep it, because if you get all the gems, you can make the "Legendary Crown of Wonder" for one of your WebKinz to wear.

You can also play games in the arcade, like Wacky Zingo, Candy Bash, Lily Padz, and Operation Gumball. You get money for playing games, but not a lot. You can also get money by going to Quizzy's Question Corner. [**Tip**: You get the most KinzCash by answering questions in Quizzy's Question Corner.]

I recommend Webkinz because it makes you a little more caring, it help you practice your reading, it helps you to learn about money, and it helps you use computers. I recommend Webkinz most of all because it is fun!

Dr. Anthony Betrus and daughter Katherine

Department of Information and Communication Technology http://www.potsdam.edu/ict

SUNY Potsdam

betrusak@potsdam.edu