***After reading about the history of e-learning think of the future.***

***Make three predictions about the world in 15 years’ time. Use the ides in the box to help you.***

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| Buildings, climate, computers, education, entertainment, health, space, work |

***Model***: *In fifteen years’ time* medical advances will allow us to grow new limbs.

*In fifteen years’ time* we’ll be able to communicate directly with search engines and they’ll tell us what we need to know.

***Look at the photo.***

***Discuss.*** 1. A) At what age should children learn how to use computers?

B) How do you feel about how much children use computers in your country?

2. ***Read the article. What does Dr Ryde think the advantage of sending children to his school is?***



Every week, a group of British pupils file into class to start their lessons, turn on their computers and obediently follow their teacher’s instructions. For an hour, they are taught mouse techniques, keyboard skills’ and reading and writing, using the computer. However, these are toddlers, hardly out of nappies' (A) \_\_\_\_.

At Ryde College they take the idea that ‘It’s never too young to start' very seriously indeed .Since the college opened in 1982, more than a thousand pupils have achieved exam results at an earlier than usual age.

The college was founded by Dr Ronald Ryde, a former university lecturer, now aged seventy. (B)\_\_\_\_.Word spread around the neighbourhood and Dr Ryde soon had to move to a special centre to cope with the demand for his services. To the man who happily puts seven-year-olds in for GCSEs, the ‘Technology tor Toddlers’ classes were the next logical step. (C) \_\_\_\_ . Aside from the actual lessons, parents are also encouraged to get the children to practise their new skills at home.

The parents of these young computer whiz kids have no qualms about giving their children a head start. Kevin Mills, forty-four, enrolled his son, Piers, a year ago, just before his second birthday, after he showed an interest in playing with a computer at home.

Elick Harding, a marketing manager and father of Safiya, another of the toddler students, admits his daughter is not always in the mood to sit still and learn but says her vocabulary and reading skills are now streets ahead of other children her age. (D) \_\_\_\_.

Whereas toddlers are tutored during the day, the older children attend either in the evenings until as late as 9p.m. or at weekends. So, there is an issue about when they get to run around and climb trees like their friends. (E) \_\_\_\_ . Last year parents Teeta and Kaushik Radia, whose son, Krishnan, became the youngest child ever to get a GCSE in Information Technology, aged just six, complained that Ryde College pushed young children into sitting exams for the publicity.

Dr Ryde remains unrepentant. “I would argue that it’s a crime to hold children back. (F)\_\_\_\_ All of us here are committed to education, not publicity”. Dr Ryde sees his college not as a hothouse for brilliance - he claims there is no great secret to their success other than small class sizes and traditional schooling methods - but rather as a way to make up for the time wasted in normal state secondary schools. “All too often the first years in secondary are lost years and teachers waste them getting all the children up to the same level”.

1. ***Each of the sentences 1-6 comes from the article. Read the article again and decide where each one should go.***
2. ‘She can count up to thirty, has an excellent vocabulary and has gained so much confidence through her classes.’
3. Introduced last year, they are aimed at giving the eighteen-month to three-year-old pupils a head start in writing, reading and communication using the computer.
4. There is also the question of why these children need to take additional exams, especially at such a young age.
5. Next term, they will move up a class to begin instruction in computer science, just months after they have celebrated their fourth birthdays.
6. The only thing we are exploiting is their ability to learn.
7. He started offering home classes after he helped his son, Mike to pass a computer GCSE at the age of fourteen, rather than the normal sixteen.

***4. Find these words in the article. Write a short definition for each one. To help you a) decide if they are nouns, verbs or adjectives, b) look at them in the context of the words before and after them.***

file - verb: to walk in line

1. nappies 5. qualms
2. former 6. head start
3. spread 7. mood
4. cope 8. hothouse

***5. Discuss***. What are the advantages and disadvantages of pushing children to study intensively and take exams early?