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## NEWS FOR KIDS

net notes: This fun site will help you learn

By Anne Nettles  
For the Journal-Constitution  
Published on: 09/17/07

Be a News for Kids insider and we'll feature you and your favorite Web site or technology product. E-mail all ideas and questions to: [nettles\\_anne@yahoo.com](mailto:nettles_anne@yahoo.com).

Layla Abdalla, 13, of Grayson spends a lot of time on the computer checking e-mail and researching movies.

The eighth-grader at J.P. McConnell Middle School describes herself as a "very frequent Internet user" and prefers Web sites that feature videos.

In a phone interview with News for Kids, Layla talked about her favorite sites. Here are some highlights from the conversation:

"Check out [www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com) — it's a site that helps with schoolwork and is kid-friendly. I learned about it through school. The site has videos that help explain different subjects."

Kids will like: "It's fun because the videos are hosted by this guy named Tim and a robot named Moby. They make a lot of corny jokes."

Be sure to concentrate: "After you watch the video, there's a quiz on what you just saw. The quizzes are easy if you pay attention."

Perfect for: "Middle school kids. Older kids might not like the jokes as much — they don't like to learn that way."

Overall: "My favorite videos are about science and math."

Learn more about your favorite subjects: [www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com) features videos and lessons about social studies, English, math, arts, music, health and technology. While much of the site is free for guests, you have to buy a subscription to have access to the entire site.

Ask your parents or teachers to sign up for a free trial at [www.brainpop.com/store/trial\\_step1.weml](http://www.brainpop.com/store/trial_step1.weml). BrainPOP also has a Spanish version ([www.es.brainpop.com](http://www.es.brainpop.com)) and BrainPOP Jr. for younger kids ([www.brainpopjr.com](http://www.brainpopjr.com)).

Other recommendations from Layla:

> Make up your own stories: "There's a lot of fan fiction sites out there. That's when a fan of a movie or book writes a story based on that movie/book. They might bring in new characters to make up their own story. One of the most popular fan fiction sites for 'Harry Potter' fans is [www.mugglenet.com](http://www.mugglenet.com). I like the fan fiction in the messageboards of IMDB ([www.internetmoviedatabase.com](http://www.internetmoviedatabase.com))."

> Word to the wise: "I have to give the speech. Be careful online; don't trust anybody. My parents say it, my school says it, and it's true — kids need to be careful on the Internet."

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