Kit’s Computing Lab: Organising Data

Learning objective: I can design a database structure to organise information into records and fields.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Ask your child to imagine how a supermarket manages thousands of products using similar digital tables.

In computing, a database is a collection of data organised into fields and records. Think of a 'field' as a category (like 'Name') and a 'record' as one complete entry (like all the info about one specific hedgehog).

Example: If you were organising a library, 'Book Title' would be a field, and 'The Secret Garden' would be the data inside that field for one specific record.

Draw: Draw a table with 3 columns and 4 rows inside a computer screen frame. The columns should be labelled 'Species', 'Weight (g)', and 'Location Found'. Fill in the first row with: 'Hedgehog', '450g', and 'London Park'. Use neat lines and clear boxes to represent a database interface.

Label words: Record · Field · Database · Query · Data

Steps:

1. In the table you draw, define a 'Field' by writing a clear definition next to your diagram.
2. If you wanted to find every hedgehog in your database that weighs over 500g, what is this type of search

called?

3. Why is it important for the data in a 'Name' field to be consistent (e.g., always using capital letters)?
4. Label the rows in your drawing as 'Records' and the columns as 'Fields'.
5. Add a new column to your table for 'Date of Birth'. Why is this a useful field for a database?



I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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