Prior Learning: collect and representing data using charts and pictograms, sorting data into groups

Facts

1. What is a branching database?

- A branching database (sometimes called a binary tree) is a way of classifying a group of objects.
- If it has been designed properly, someone else could use the tree to identify one of the objects. It could be used, for example, to classify mini-beasts, musical instruments, white powders or fruit.

Vocabulary

Branching database – a way of classifying a group of objects.

Classify – arrange in categories according to shared characteristics.

Attributes - a quality or feature regarded as a characteristic of someone or something

2. Using branching databases

- Branching databases use a series of closed questions to determine the attributes of a particular item.
- By working through these questions, the user will be able to sort a particular set of items.
- When using a branching diagram, the first question will split the group of objects evenly.
- The next question answered will be determined by the answer to the previous question, the user will then follow a branch to the end where they will find the name of the item.

4. Creating a digital branching database

- Digital databases allowing for easier editing and some can be programmed to work through the branches.
- They are created following the same process as a physical database, however the computer will sort and create branches based on the user's questions.



3. Creating a physical branching database

- When creating a branching database, the first question should evenly split the objects based on common attributes.
- Purposeful closed questions should be used to split the group further until each branch ends in one specific object; images can be used to represent the object.
- Once a branching database is complete, it should be thoroughly tested using each item; this will ensure that it correctly sorts items within a category.



