

# Red gives learning to read the green light

AN ARTICULATE android charmed visitors at a teachers' conference at the Grand Hotel this week.

The mini mechanoid is Red the Robot, a soft-talking automaton that reads stories and activity cards to Foundation and Key Stage 1 pupils.

He was in Torquay to demonstrate his story-telling skills for youngsters learning to read.

Red is the brainchild of Impact International Limited, an Exeter-based company which develops interactive learning facilities for pupils.

Company spokeswoman Lisa Thompson said: "A crucial but sometimes overlooked component of learning to read is being read to — actually listening to what it sounds like.

"Red, which stands for Rapid Education Programme, is designed to support letters and sounds, the

By **GLENN PRICE**

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Primary National Strategy's recently launched guidance on phonics teaching.

"Red asks questions or helps pupils practise words. He has been developed by teachers, and he tells stories of his life in a West Country village with the mum and dad who own him, and in particular with their three children.

"The stories are about 10 minutes long, after which Red challenges pupils to pick out and practise words. There are plans to expand Red's capacities in other directions, such as foreign languages."

Red the Robot is 40cm tall and uses the very latest technology to read an ever-expanding library of stories and activity books.

He has a large memory chip and USB-style upgrade port to allow for additional interactive books, packs and activity cards to be uploaded from any PC.



■ **READING HELP: Lisa Thompson with Red the Robot**

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