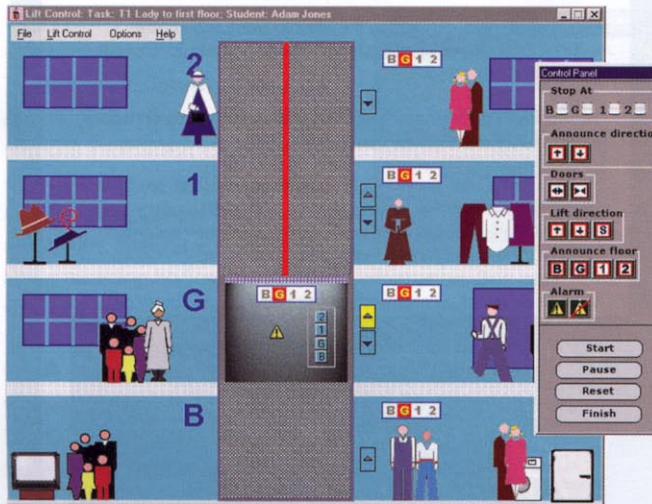


## REVIEWS



## Lift Control simulation software

**SUPPLIER:** Soft Teach Educational

**TEL:** 01985 840 329

**WEB:** [www.soft-teach.co.uk](http://www.soft-teach.co.uk)

**PRICE:**

£50 (1 to 5 primary user licence)

£80 (up to 10 primary users)

£150 (site licence)

Control simulations offer an opportunity to practise sequencing commands in a life-like scenario and therefore offer an opportunity to extend, reinforce and apply learning in relatively real situations.

They also offer a useful extension activity. Lift Control from Soft Teach (PC and Mac) does just that. Pressing the lift buttons and picking up and dropping off passengers is a lovely introduction to applied control technology.

There's no control program to write, the idea is simply to get the sequence of tasks in the right order. Tasks can be set by the teacher via the password protected 'class management' window. Here both simple and quite complex tasks can be set up.

Children can practise and get used to the software via the 'practice screen'. The teacher can assign groups of children and/or individuals tasks. When competent, they can begin the teacher's preset task.

The children are confronted with the four floors of a

department store with customers who need to visit different floors. A help window reminds them of what they must do and a 'control panel' opens (like a virtual TV remote) from which the lift operations are controlled. The children must watch the illuminated lift buttons and respond accordingly.

Lift Control is easy to use and children soon realise that they are creating a series of commands for the lift operation. Each operation is noted so that children keep track of where they are. The task ends when no further lift buttons are illuminated.

When complete, a feedback window opens so that the teacher and children can assess their success. Correct and incorrect responses, omissions and out-of-sequence responses are all noted.

The software has some other neat touches, for example, passengers are animated and even grumble and mutter when kept waiting, as I discovered to my cost, when forgetting my floor announcements!

For Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils this is a lovely simulation and one that sits well in the series of other control simulations from Soft Teach Educational. Lift Control is thoroughly recommended.

**Reviewed by Chris Drage**