

ILT Foundation grant sees 15 Invercargill kindies receive a top-line new computer each _ the first children's computer upgrade for city kindergartens in five years.

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INVERCARGILL kindergarten children certainly can't be accused of falling behind in the computer age.

Fifteen city kindergartens will soon own one brand spanking new Apple computer each, thanks to a grant of \$36,785 from the ILT Foundation.

Southland Kindergarten Association (SKA) president, Paddy Lewis, said the grant was highly significant because the city kindergartens had not had a children's computer upgrade for five years.

The grant also meant the SKA, or the individual kindies, wouldn't have to dip into their own limited funds to pay for the new computers.

The computers would also be up with the best available in kindergartens nationwide.

"The other ones were well past their use-by dates, so it's really just upgrading to the latest technology and keeping up with what's going on," Mr Lewis said.

"It just means they (children and teachers) will be able to do a bit more because they're be able to run better programmes that the older computers just couldn't handle."

Former school principal and now ILT Foundation chairman, Alan Dennis, said providing the latest computers to city kindies was an educational investment for the future.

"We believe that having quality, up-to-date computers in all schools and early childhood centres is a must in this day and age," Mr Dennis said.

"This grant shows how serious we are about that because new computers are a vital tool in terms of learning and teaching. And we want our children to have the best when it comes to education."

Another high-tech tool could soon give Southland's kindergarten youngsters a further national edge.