

Minimum hardware requirements: a checklist

Hardware	Notes	Tick
Digital camcorder	A good digital camcorder suitable for a class project should cost about £200. It is important to buy one that has an LCD screen to help with framing and which is also easier for younger children to use. Ensure that the digital camera has a DV output feature (to download video to a computer).	
Tripod	A must for the project. Ensures that the camera is safe and produces a smooth filming process.	
Battery charger	Ensure that you have a battery charger ready in case the batteries run out.	
Spare battery	It is best to have a charged spare battery as a back-up.	
Mini DV tapes	Have at least one spare blank mini DV tape to hand. Write the title on the tape to prevent any mix-ups (which can result in accidental erasing or recording over existing footage).	
Firewire	A cable to transfer data from the camcorder to computer. Much faster than USB cables.	
Video capture card	To transfer video to hard disk from the camcorder, you will need a firewire port on your computer. This comes with an internal video capture card.	
Speakers	Check that your computer has a good pair of speakers to hear the sound recorded on camera and also any edited sound files.	
Computer specification	A computer with at least 40GB hard disk space and 256Mb RAM is desirable to cope with the demands of video editing and storage.	
Other storage media	You might want to transfer your completed video onto a CD. If the video size is less than 700Mb, save the video on a CD-R/CD-RW; otherwise store on a DVD disk.	

For more information, visit the following websites:

- [BECTA ICT Advice](#)
- Classroom Magic