Kidspiration is a visual organizer tool that helps students do the following, using both words and pictures:

- Brainstorm ideas
- Organize and categorize information
- Create stories and descriptions
- Explore new ideas with thought webs and diagrams

To open Kidspiration, go to Classroom Tools and double-click on the Kidspiration icon.

Kidspiration will launch the Starter Screen:

Create a Diagram in Picture View:
• To start a new graphic diagram click on the Picture Button.
• The First Idea circle pops on the screen and provides a starting point for your work.
  o You can change the text on the symbol by clicking on the symbol, and typing.
  o (Symbols can be either text bubbles or pictures).

Adding New Symbols to the First Idea Circle:
• Click on the First Idea symbol (Animals) to select it.
• Click on the Add Symbol button once to connect one symbol and click on the Add Symbol button twice to connect two symbols.
• Remember to click on the symbol to type your text.

Using the Symbol Palette to Add Different Symbols
• The symbol palette has hundreds of text bubbles and pictures to choose from.
o To add the symbols to your diagram, click once on the symbol or click and drag the symbol on to your workspace.

- Hint: Before adding new symbols, click off of the symbol to de-select it in order to prevent overwriting that symbol.

Connecting the Symbols
- The link feature will allow you to connect the symbols to the pictures.
  o First click on the food symbol to select it.
  o Next click on the Link Symbols button.
  o Next click on the fern picture to create a link to it.
o Click the Link Symbols button again to turn it off.
o Follow these steps to connect the other symbols.

Changing Colors
• You can change the fill and line colors of any symbol.
• Click on the symbol that you would like to change.
• Click on the fill color or line color button on the formatting toolbar, located at the bottom of the screen.
• Click on the color that you want to change to.

• You can also change the background color by selecting Goodies and then Background.
Create a Diagram in **Writing View**:

- Use writing view to begin building a written project using the ideas in your graphic diagram.
- To start a written diagram of your graphic design, click on the **Writing** button.
- In writing view the ideas in your diagram are organized from top to bottom, with your first idea at the top.

![Diagram](image)

Add and Modify a New Idea:

- You can add a new idea to your project by clicking on an idea, such as *fur*.
- Next, click on the **New Idea** button. A new box will appear in your diagram for you to type your new idea in.
• To move your ideas, drag and drop the boxes.
• To add information to your ideas, click in the notes area of the box and begin typing.

• You can toggle between picture view and writing view by clicking on the picture view icon or the writing view icon.

• When you are finished, you can save your project, print your project, or export your project in a picture format. All of these options are located under the File menu.