

Keyboarding Instruction Programs

Custom Typing

<http://www.customtyping.com>

Free trial for 4 weeks, then \$9.00/month. Use online, no downloads. Can have an animated coach to guide instruction. Typing games and exercises. Tracks progress. Lots of customization features for special needs (e.g. reading levels, alternate access, one-handed typing).

Dance Mat Typing

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/>

Free – no sign up. Use online, no downloads. While the site is designed for kids ages 7 – 11, older kids seem to like this site because of the music, British voice, etc. Home row instruction, activities, etc. Has worksheets that can be used off-line. Requires Flash plug-in. Will collect data during session, but not maintained from session to session. Need to keep track yourself of activities completed, etc.

E-Learning for Kids

<http://e-learningforkids.org/Courses/EN/K0001/index.html>

Free – no advance sign up. Use online, no downloads. Designed for elementary aged kids. Home row instruction, games, etc. Will collect data during session, but not maintained from session to session. Need to keep track yourself of activities completed, etc.

Keyboarding for the Physically Handicapped

<http://special-education-soft.com/physicallyhandicapped.html>

An interactive keyboarding instruction program geared specifically to which fingers the individual can use. Based on the Teacher's Institute for Special Education (T.I.S.E.) 1978 book. The Master Edition (\$895) includes all fingering options. You can purchase a single fingering option for \$149.95.

Keytime Typing System

<http://www.keytime.com>

This is a keyboarding instructional method – The Skillbuilder Kit includes a book of exercises, fuzzy dots on the keyboard with keyboard labels for one handed keyboarding and keyboarding using the Dvorak keyboard layout in addition to the standard QWERTY method and KeyTimer – a software program to calculate performance. Prices range from \$35.00 - \$49.95.

Sunburst - Type to Learn 4 – Agents of Information a New Foundation of the Type to Learn Series

<http://store.sunburst.com/ProductInfo.aspx?itemid=196661>

Available on CD or as a web-enabled client application (1-time download and installation required on each machine). Can be used by students at school and home with a centralized data collection.

\$79.95 single user.

Typing Pal

<http://www.typingpal.com/index.asp>

Fee based. Can get 30 day free trial. Version for individuals and schools. Use online, no downloads. Not clear what/if any games they have.

Keyboarding Practice Options

- TypeRacer

<http://play.typeracer.com/>

Free – requires sign up. Use online, no downloads. Copy from a single line of text or a paragraph. Must type the letter correctly – race won't continue otherwise. Practice skills on your own, race against others online or invite friends to race. At the end of each race you get a wpm and accuracy level. Don't have any info on the text students copy from – haven't heard about any concerns, though.

- Online Typing Games

<http://www.onlytypinggames.com/>

Free. Use online, no downloads. Looks like the site has arcade type game options. Looks to be more for practice than fingering type instruction. I would suggest checking this site out carefully. Not familiar with the site ... watch the ads, other links available, etc.

- Sunburst – Type for Fun

<http://store.sunburst.com/>

Four games to improve speed and accuracy skills. Customizing options (available in school edition) allows teachers to select and/or add vocabulary words, or focus on specific keyboarding strategies, such as learning numbers or improving punctuation.

Home Edition - \$19.95

School Edition - \$69.95