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Occupational Therapy Advice for Keyboard Skills – Free Typing games

Below are some suggestions for games and typing programmes to help children and young people to develop their keyboard familiarity and basic word processing skills. These have been separated into different stages, beginning with locating single letters on the keyboard in one area e.g., the home row, top row or bottom row, to locating multiple letters across the keyboard. The next progression is to type small words and eventually moving on to short sentences.

Top Tip! If you feel the 'f' and 'j' keys on the keyboard they both have a little raised line or dot on them. This is to act as a reminder for where to place your index fingers.



Basic Level: Locating single letters

Whilst getting used to the keyboard and familiarising yourself with where the keys are, it is o.k. to just use index fingers to begin with. Encouraging the child to use both hands from the beginning is a good idea. It forms good habits and helps to locate keys quicker if one hand is focusing on one side of the keyboard and the other hand focuses on the other side. Here are some games for locating single keys, these are basic level games.

- www.typetastic.co.uk **Typetastic** Free game/programme. This is a comprehensive typing programme that includes short activities that practise locating single keys. You can choose from home row, top row, bottom row and this is great for grading practise. Colourful and enjoyable!
- www.bbc.co.uk **Dance Mat Typing**. Free game. Dance Mat focuses on finger placement and locating single letters.

- www.abcya.com Free games including: **Keyboard Invasion** – really fun game; **Typing Rocket** – good for locating letters.
- www.typing.com **Keyboard Ninja**. Free games. Medium and hard levels are quite quick! You can practise just home row, top row or bottom row or just numbers so good for range of skills.
- www.typing.com **Type-a-Balloon**. ... Free game.
You can practise typing one letter at a time but at different speeds.

Intermediate Level: Practising Typing Words

- www.alfatyping.com/freetypinggames/ Free games **Typing Adventure: Monster Invasion and Ninja Cat and Zombie Dinos**.
- www.abcya.com **Ghost typing** – good for practising whole words
- www.sense-lang.org Free games including: **Type for Your Life**. Also, a free typing test is available on here. It gives you your accuracy scores and the number of words you can type per minute. It is quite fast paced, maybe something worth having a go at once child gets confident.
- www.crazymonkeygames **Type Type Revolution** Free game. Good for finding letters and trying to speed up. Different level of ability.
- www.mathandreadinghelp.org **The Typing of the Ghosts** Free game. This is good fun and quite challenging. The game mixes up letters and words for you to type. Good once child gains confidence in locating keys.

You will find many more typing games on each of the websites listed here. Some of these change from time to time as the websites get updates but there are many other useful games you will be able to access as well as the ones mentioned here.