

Online Keyboarding Programs Features
The Keyboarding Dilemma
Closing the Gap 2006

Jan Kurtz, MS, OTR/L

Program	Engaging features	instructions	Games	Organization of lessons
<p>Computer Circus http://library.thinkquest.org/18709/data/contents.html</p>	<p>Very basic</p>	<p>Text on screen no auditory support</p>	<p>none</p>	<p>HR taught first then moves to upper and lower row letters with no connection for HR. nonsense combinations begins real words on lesson 4, teaches capitals in middle of words Navigation allows student to move to higher lessons w/o prior practice with earlier letters.</p>
<p>Custom Typing www.customtyping.com</p>	<p>Good static graphics. Interesting facts in the text practice sessions. Explanations in each lesson about why things are taught in a particular manner. Nice graphics for finger movements.</p>	<p>Choice of text instructions or auditory support from an animated typing coach</p>	<p>Two games Soccer game using all the letters. Trivia game requires good reading level to participate. Nice variety of topics No auditory support for poor readers.</p>	<p>Lessons focus on teaching all the keys for one finger. Linked very strongly to the home row. Cued for correct letter after each error. Moved quickly to real words. Errorless typing in lessons. Program has interesting text to practice typing after basic lessons are completed. Student given choices of the text to type.</p>

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Dance Mat Typing BBC www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing	Lots of auditory support. Characters dance at end of each lesson. Different characters give instructions and show for each lesson set in fun accents.	Given both visually and auditorially	Lessons are game-like Need flash player	Teaches letter in logical sequence connecting with hr letters, lots of practice with real words.
Good Typing www.goodtyping.com	Very basic	Brief text instructions	None	Begins with HR letters. Cap locks must be on. Practice links upper and lower letters to home row. Lots of nonsense letter combinations.
Word Wacker www.nimblefingers.com	Very basic	Basic text	None	HR letters taught first, then some upper and lower case letters, punctuation then rest of letters. Word Wacker program for purchase to practice words.

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Senselang www.senselang.com	Very basic program	Text	None	HR letters first, Other letters taught with no relationship to HR. Nonsense combinations. Slow to move to real words.
Typing Pal Jr. School Edition www.typingpal.com	Some characters active at the bottom of screen while typing	Text instructions with some picture support	One game	HR letters taught first. Upper and lower letters with little connection to HR. Moves to real words fairly quickly Capital letters taught in middle of letter sequence

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Program	Price	Customize	Auditory Feedback	ages	comments
Computer Circus http://library.thinkquest.org/18709/data/contents.html	Free	Student chooses what to practice	none	All	Nice color diagram of finger arrangement
Custom Typing www.customtyping.com	Priced student per month. Students can be deleted and new ones added into existing slots. Example of range \$20 per month for 10 students \$300 per month for 2000 students. See web site for specific info.	Choice of computer guided mode, self guided mode or teacher guided mode . can set own speed goal under computer guided method. Test at the beginning helps determine level to start at.	Option of talking typing coaches Clicking sound as correct letters are pressed. Error sound and reward music at completion of lesson Error sound during lessons	All ages	Excellent graphics for finger movements Longer typing tests designed to measure speed. Specialized exercises for children and teens Wide range of engaging texts for students to copy. Record Keeping: Detailed stats on accuracy and speed. Student scores over time are maintained on the server and can be quickly accessed at any time by the teacher Tech support available online and via phone.

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Dance Mat Typing BBC www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing	free	Student can choose level	Instructions encouragement, rewards, error correction	7-11	Great auditory support, very engaging, accents may make it difficult to understand for some
Good Typing www.goodtyping.com	free	no	none	Not rated	Poorly organized visually- four long rows of letters with student typing below. No diagram to show finger movement.
Word Wacker www.nimblefingers.com	Basic lesson free. Word Wacker program \$24.95	no	Typewriter sound as letters are typed	Not rated	Introduction of punctuation in the middle of teaching letters is awkward. Free information about typing available.
Senselang http://www.senselang.org/typing	free	Can paste in own text to type	No sound	Not rated	Separate screen is available for finger placement.

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Program	Price	Customize	Auditory Feedback	ages	comments
Typing Pal Jr. school edition www.typingpal.com	Range \$7 per student Site license \$125 < 100 students in school \$250 for large schools	Student can choose level Teacher can choose speed and accuracy goals	Error sound	Elementary and middle school	Activity below letters may be distracting, errorless typing , feedback on accuracy and speed at end of each lesson Detailed information on accuracy provided