

# Dyslexia and Learning to touch-type

## Choosing a Programme

### Which programme?

- choose something that maintains interest but does not become difficult too quickly
- check if the programme is designed for school or home use

### What are your aims?

1. use of keyboard layout using correct fingers
2. accuracy
3. speed

<<Tip  
\*avoid programmes which try to quickly develop all three at once\*

### Does it have dyslexia friendly features?

- multi-sensory - seeing, hearing, doing
- has text AND auditory instructions (or have your text to speech software running)
- has on screen keyboard whilst you are learning
- has an uncluttered screen with minimum movement/distraction
- avoid ones that get you to type made-up words

<<Tip  
\*it may be helpful to say the letters as you type\*

<<Tip  
\*typing programmes which group similar spelling patterns can also help spelling\*

## Using the programme and practicing

- go for frequent short sessions
- covering letter keys with stickers may prevent you looking
- stickers can also be used to convert your keyboard to lower case, e.g. those sold by Inclusive Technology
- disable autocorrect in every day word-processing work (In XP Tools>Autocorrect Options>uncheck box 'Replace text as you type')
- For more tips see: [www.bdatech.org/learning/typing-skills](http://www.bdatech.org/learning/typing-skills) and [www.nimblefingers.com](http://www.nimblefingers.com)

## Programmes to buy

For commercial programmes go to [www.dyslexic.com/typing](http://www.dyslexic.com/typing)

Then scroll down and some suitable programmes, with their pros and cons, are listed, e.g.

- First Keys to Literacy
- Nesy Fingers
- English Type Junior
- English Type Senior
- Type Quick for Students
- Type to Learn
- Typing Instructor Deluxe
- KAZ Typing Tutor

For keyboard familiarity in Wordshark use: Bombs/Word Sort/Dictionary Fish/Holes

## Free Programmes

### Examples of free on-line graded courses:

1. Dancemat BBC - good fun start (for ages 7-11 approx.) [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing)
2. Nimblefingers - indicates speed and errors as you type. Easy to get started. Typing tips throughout, and individual feedback possible. Some will struggle with the black print/blue background and font used in the exercises. Extra free download activities, and option to purchase more. [www.nimblefingers.com](http://www.nimblefingers.com)
3. Typeonline - course with number practice and speed exercises. Main course has a lot of wordy text (no auditory instructions). Exercises ok for reinforcement, without the pressure of a speed game. Gives an idea of accuracy and speed at the end, but does not indicate errors as you go along. [www.typeonline.co.uk](http://www.typeonline.co.uk)  
*Note: the typeonline copy and speed exercises cannot be done unless you print out the passage first. (Once you start you cannot see on the screen what you are to type).*

### Examples of free on-line reinforcement/practice:

1. Individual letter practice (capitals only). Does not demand initial speed or accuracy. Very limited format. [www.primarygames.com/langarts/cupstacking/index.htm](http://www.primarygames.com/langarts/cupstacking/index.htm)
2. Individual letter practice (capitals only). For consolidation of skills. Demands accuracy first time. Fun/exciting. Limited format. [www.tvokids.com/games/keyboardclimber](http://www.tvokids.com/games/keyboardclimber)
3. Individual letter practice. Type to burst the bubble. If successful, gets faster. Fun, but demanding.  
[www.typingmaster.com/games/bubbleapplet.asp?keys=abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz&Submit=Start+Game](http://www.typingmaster.com/games/bubbleapplet.asp?keys=abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz&Submit=Start+Game)
4. Individual letter/word practice. Easiest level is quite demanding, and yet it is presented in a 'very young' context. Has progression and options. Good for consolidation, if the 'nursery' pictures do not bother you.  
[www.funschool.kaboose.com/fun-blaster/super-speller/games/game\\_type\\_me.html?g=arcade/ptypeme3](http://www.funschool.kaboose.com/fun-blaster/super-speller/games/game_type_me.html?g=arcade/ptypeme3)
5. Words/phrases practice. Practice using a 'blocks' game idea - you have to type words or phrases before they reach the bottom. The only grading is the speed at which the blocks fall. <http://www.powertyping.com/trees.shtml>
6. Graded practice (letters/words/sentences) with different levels and an indication of progress, BUT has US spelling. [www.usspeller.com/keytutor.html](http://www.usspeller.com/keytutor.html)
7. To see how you are doing [www.typingtest.com](http://www.typingtest.com)