

Dudley Children's Occupational Therapy Service
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Using Information Technology (IT)

Learning to use IT is important for all children as computers become increasingly more prevalent in our society. IT can provide an alternative method for children to record their work, particularly if they find handwriting challenging.

Keyboards

There are various alternatives to a standard keyboard if children are struggling to use these e.g. jumbo, mini keyboard, split keyboard, contoured keyboard, overlay key guards and on-screen/touch screen keyboard.

Mouse

There are various alternatives to a standard mouse if children are struggling to use this e.g. roller ball, joystick, bar mice, vertical mice and ergonomic mice.

Accessibility Options/Ease of Access

These features (accessed via Windows Settings) can help to make technology more accessible for people with disabilities e.g. sticky keys, filter keys, mouse keys, screen readers, drag lock for mouse, colour filters, magnifier.

Typing Apps

Children will need to spend time learning how to type so that this can be used as a viable alternative to handwriting. This is not a comprehensive list as apps are constantly changing and being updated however it gives a rough idea of what is available:

BBC Dance Mat Typing

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/articles/z3c6tfr>

Cup stacking – ABCya

[Http://www.abcya.com/cup_stack_typing_game.htm](http://www.abcya.com/cup_stack_typing_game.htm)

Typing Rocket – ABCya

http://www.abcya.com/typing_tocket_junior.htm

Keyboard Zoo – ABCya

http://www.abcya.com/keyboarding_practice.htm

Key Seeker

<http://www.annrymer.com/keyseeker/>

Programmes with an element of challenge i.e. speed or time element:

Easter Bunnies Typing

<http://www.primarygames.com/holidays/easter/games/easterbunniestyping/>

Key Man

<http://www.slimekids.com/games/typing-games/keyman.html>

Keyboard Ninja

<http://www.primarygames.com/langarts/typing/keyboardninja/>

Popcorn Typer

[Popcorn Typer | Typing Game for Kids & Elementary Students](#)

Word processing

iWordQ UK £17.99

Word processing tool which includes predictive text function. Essentially makes typing quicker and easier for children with motor skill problems. Supports airdrop and email.

For older children/teenagers

Typing club (free)

<https://www.typingclub.com>

Typing.com

<https://www.typing.com/student/start>

How to Type

[How To Type - Free typing test, typing lessons and typing practice.](#)

Typing Academy

[TypingAcademy: Learn touch typing with our free typing practice](#)

Nitro Type

[Nitro Type | Competitive Typing Game | Race Your Friends](#)