



Children's Treatment Network

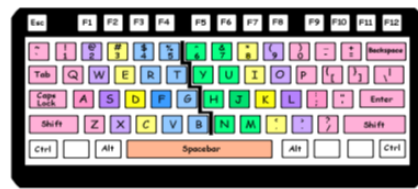
Building Brighter Futures Together

Developing Keyboarding Skills

Printing can be very difficult for some children. The effort to remember how to form the letters can make it harder to think about spelling, grammar and ideas in general. Keyboarding can be a great option for these children because it helps them to concentrate on ideas, increase the speed of output and helps other people read their work more easily. Some children are able to produce longer and better written stories or answers when they keyboard.

Important things to remember when teaching keyboarding:

- Ensure good posture before keyboarding. Both feet should be resting on the ground and forearms resting on the table with the hands in the ready position. Hands should stay on the keyboard rather than taking them away after each time they hit the key.
- Both hands should be used at all times. Remind the child to use their left hand for keys to the left of the line and their right hand for keys to right of the line.
- Place a pipe cleaner, Wikki Stix (hand knitting yarn coated with wax) or colored piece of tape down the middle of the keyboard. Keys can also be color coded using stickers or clear, decorative tape (Washi tape) to highlight specific keys for each finger when there has been success with both hands on each side of the keyboard.



To teach letter location and keyboard awareness:

- Help the child learn letter locations by using flash cards with upper case letters or small words to copy.
- Make it a game by showing the letter and have the child find it — ensure that they are using each hand on each side of the keyboard.
- Make a secret message that your child reads after they have found all the letters or practice spelling words.
- When the child knows the location of most of the keys, cover their hands with paper towel or light piece of cloth then ask them to type simple words without looking at their fingers.

Online resources: [Dance Mat Typing](#) [Typing](#)

CONNECT WITH US



www.ctnsy.ca

www.facebook.com/ChildrensTreatmentNetwork/

[@CTNKids](https://twitter.com/CTNKids)