

This site rates typing programs for different age groups:
<http://www.smartkidssoftware.com/typing.htm>

This site sells a keyboard called Little Fingers for smaller hands:
http://www.datadesktech.com/education_base.html

ONE-HANDED PROGRAMS

DVORAK Layout

I am now recommending the one-handed DVORAK layout for my students. This layout is available as an optional keyboard layout on the control panel of Windows 95 and later versions, as well as newer Mac operating systems. The advantage of this layout is that the reach is greatly reduced as the keys are clustered in the middle of the keyboard, i.e., number keys become letter keys. It is also based on frequency of use. Simply relabel the keys with commercially available keyboard letter stickers or make some. This layout is also an option on the Alphasmart word processors. The nice thing about using the Alphasmart is that the keys can be popped off and repositioned. My students use the Alphasmart as a standalone word processor as well as a DVORAK keyboard for their desktop computers - very versatile.

Maltron Keyboard

I just received on loan from the state lending AT library, a one-handed keyboard called the Maltron. This keyboard comes in a left- or right-handed version and is designed to be ergonomically functional with all most commonly used keys in a 'bowl-shaped' layout on one side of the keyboard. An interesting comment I read in the Maltron manual was talking about learning the new way to type. It stated that when a person learns the standard 2-handed program, both sides of the body and brain must work together to coordinate the typing process. Using the one handed keyboard, not only involves only the one side of the body, but one side of the brain and this then helps to learn a new typing program much easier. The home row is different on the Malton, using different letters, but this device does come with typing exercises to learn and familiarize the person with the position of the keys and the feel of moving from one key to the next. This appears (to me) to be even more functional/feasible than the Alphasmart set up for one-handed typing.

Touch Type for One Hand and Half-Qwerty

Both available from Matias Corp., Canada (<http://www.dgp.toronto.edu/matias/m>) or call 800-663-4263.

One-Handed Typing

Check out their website at: www.aboutonehandedtyping.com.

Keyboarding Programs

Compiled by Deanna Iris Sava, MS, OTR/L

Page Six

5 Finger Typing

Available through Mayer-Johnson (www.mayerjohnson.com). For MAC and PC. Can use with regular keyboard, for right and left-handers. Not an exciting program.

Key Time

A typing tutor program for the DVORAK one-handed layout. It uses the alphabet, not the home keys. Contact them at keyord@keytime.net or (206) 522-8973. It costs \$49.95. Be sure to specify which version you require (MAC or Windows).

Bob Harrell's Home Page

Free typing tutor program (<http://home1.gte.net/bharrell/index.htm>)