

## **Sue Patrick's Workbox System**

### **Typing Program**

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I made up this typing curriculum because I found the popular computer programs to be too distracting and without enough repetition. Also, when children use these programs, they tend to look down at their fingers right from the start.

If possible, it is much better to learn typing at an actual typewriter. If you don't have one, attach the picture of the keyboard and the typing hands, which are included, right to the computer screen. It is not important that they see what they type. It is important that they don't look at their fingers as they learn to type.

In the beginning, this is a "work with Mom" box. You will hold something large like a black piece of construction paper over his hands so he learns to type without looking down. If he needs to look at the keys, he looks at the picture of the keyboard posted in front of him.

Go slowly, starting with page one and do not move on until he is comfortable with his hands in the right place and is fairly accurate with that page. Always emphasize that accuracy is not important. He never needs to correct, just keep going and do the best he can—never looking at his fingers.

I highlight the keys we are working with (as you can see with the dry erase marker). An even more visual way to highlight the keys on the picture are to roll up a "snake" of clay and press that onto the picture in place around the keys you are using. This may sound strange, but I also encourage them to hold their hands in position in their lap when doing things like driving in the car and waiting in line. Just ask them to mentally think of keys and which fingers to use and "air type" during those times looking at street signs or billboards to type out.

I have included little schedule sheets for typing. The schedule sheet is what goes into the workbox during his school day. He then takes that sheet to the computer or typewriter. In the beginning assign page 1. He may type page 1 every day for a week or two weeks, just until he is comfortable. Then assign page 1 and 2, then 1, 2 and 3 and so on. Even when they are doing 12 pages in a sitting, it won't take long as they will be more proficient by then. It will not be a "work with mom" box for long. But if you find them looking at their fingers, go back to sitting with them and holding something over their hands.

As he progresses, keep the previous sheets on the schedule and he types more sheets per session as he goes along. Once he is comfortable with all the pages in this book, then it will be a good time to introduce the computer programs for typing. I particularly like Typer Shark. You can play a trial version of this on Yahoo Games.