Typing Practice Websites and Resources

You are going to be using computers a lot during third grade to share your learning with others. When you are writing with a pencil, do you still need to think about how to form each letter? I doubt it, but there was a time when writing words took a lot of your energy - and probably made it difficult to focus on what you wanted to write since you were putting so much effort into forming the words. Just like having neat, expert handwriting makes your writing easier to read and easier for you to write, practicing typing on a keyboard makes it easier for you to express your ideas on the computer without having to put a lot of effort into thinking about the typing process. When typing becomes automatic, you'll be able to think about what you're writing, not about where the letters are on the keyboard. This also means that you can write first-drafts on the computer, rather than first handwriting the draft and then typing it!

So, if typing is not yet automatic for you, it would be great if you practice this skill at home. Just like learning to write, or play the piano, or hit a baseball, typing takes lots of practice. Fortunately, there are many great websites that teach typing in fun, game-like ways. Here are some of my favorites.

[BBC Dance Mat Typing](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing) - The BBC has a fun typing program with four different levels. Pay attention to which fingers the program tells you to use for each key. Start at level 1 and work your way up! (www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/)

[ABCya Typing Games](http://www.abcya.com/kids_typing_game.htm) - ABCya has ten super typing games in a range of levels. If you are fairly new with typing, you may want to begin with the K-2 games, and then work your way up to the 3-5 games. These games don't show you which fingers to use, so you should use these games to practice typing after you do BBC Dance Mat Typing first. (www.abcya.com/kids\_typing\_game.htm)

[Typing Club](http://www.typingclub.com/typing-qwerty-en.html) - In the fall you will receive your own account in the typing club with a username and password, but for now you can take the lessons on this website without having an account. These lessons are the best for teaching you to learn the correct fingers to type each key. It will also keep track of your typing speed and accuracy. (www.typingclub.com/typing-qwerty-en.html)

[Typing.com](https://www.typing.com/student) – This isn’t the prettiest site, and it has lots of advertisements, but it covers the basics thoroughly in step-by-step lessons. (www.typing.com/student)

