



Pirbright Village Primary School **Learning from Home**

Special Needs Tip: Things to try at home based on strategies we use in school to help support your child's learning. We hope that these ideas might be helpful, but there is no obligation or expectation for you to use them.

Typing programmes

Using IT effectively is a key life skill. It is particularly useful for children with special needs. However, it requires a number of key skills. To use ICT effectively a child needs to be able to:

- Link upper- and lower-case letters
- Find letters on the keyboard
- Manipulate their fingers to land on the correct keys
- Understand how to save, file and find their work effectively

This means that practicing typing skills is a really good activity. There are lots of online programmes to help children learn to type. These include:

- [BBC Dance Mat](#)- This is free and quite fun. It is my normal recommendation.
- [Typing.com](#)- Free, but very American. It has very clear graphics with little fuss which works well for some children.
- [Typing club](#) Free, again very American. It seems very similar to Typing.com
- [Nessy Fingers](#) This is a more sophisticated and paid product (£30.00 for a year). It is designed for children with dyslexia.
- [Nitro Typing](#) This is a site with competitions based on car racing to develop typing speed. It requires setting up an account, so the normal e-safety messages about not sharing personal information apply.

If your child wants to use IT to record and is struggling with typing, don't forget that there are a number of **voice to text apps** available. These are quite good, particularly as they don't always record accurately, so can be used as an opportunity for children to check their work.