

## Free software for children under 5

This factsheet provides a range of free software for children under 5. The factsheet is broken down into free assistive software, free downloadable games, free online games, free switch resources and free resources. For more resources like this please see [www.abilitynet.org.uk/playni](http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/playni) and select **downloadable materials**.

### Free Assistive software

#### Mouse Pointers

Many children find it difficult at first to correlate the movement of a pointing device such as a mouse to the arrow on the screen. To help develop this understanding, large mouse pointers can be used to make it easier to see the arrow or mouse pointer. In addition this is very useful for children with a visual impairment.

Large mouse pointer/arrows can be downloaded from:

[www.yourdolphin.com](http://www.yourdolphin.com)  
[www.ace-centre.org.uk](http://www.ace-centre.org.uk)  
[www.philip-henderson.co.uk](http://www.philip-henderson.co.uk)  
[www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm](http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm)



#### Reading Aids


Software such as Vu-Bar provides a slotted ruler to block out words on a page to allow a child to purely focus on the word they are reading. Vu-Bar can be downloaded from [www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm](http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/assistive.htm).

#### Magnifiers

There are a large range of free magnifiers available on the internet, **Virtual Magnifier** is nice and simple and just replaces the mouse pointer with a magnified window. This is useful for children with a visual impairment. Virtual Magnifier can be downloaded from <http://magnifier.sourceforge.net/>

## Free Downloadable Games

The following games can be installed on your computer and do not need an internet connection whilst the game is being played.

<p><b>Cyberstart</b></p> <p>Cyberstart is a program that can teach children how to use a mouse and some basic shapes. The child moves the cursor over the screen, matching up colours and shapes</p> <p><a href="http://www.larryloveland.com">www.larryloveland.com</a></p>	
<p><b>Hiyah</b></p> <p>Hiyah is simplistic program written for young children who have autism, ADHD, and speech delays. All the child needs to do is press the spacebar to play.</p> <p><a href="http://www.hiyah.net">www.hiyah.net</a></p>	<p><b>Rhyme Time #1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Twinkle-Twinkle</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Ants Go Marching</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Hey Diddle-Diddle</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">London Bridge</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Open-Shut Them</a></li> </ul>  <p>Press the Spacebar or Click Chapter</p>
<p><b>BabySmash</b></p> <p>Many children like to hit the keyboard so this program provides a suitable reward for each press. As children smash on the keyboard, coloured shapes, letters and numbers appear on the screen, which are read aloud as they appear. All the short cuts such as the Windows key are locked out to avoid the child swapping programs accidentally.</p> <p><a href="http://www.hanselman.com/babysmash">www.hanselman.com/babysmash</a></p>	

### Minisebran

Minisebran is a series of different games that contain alphabet exercises, number exercises and doodle activities.

[www.wartoft.nu/software/minisebran/](http://www.wartoft.nu/software/minisebran/)



### Tux Typing

Tux Typing is a typing program. In the various exercises, letters or words come falling down from space. The task is to type them as quick as possible, earning the highest score with the most typed.

<http://tux4kids.alioth.debian.org/>



### Tux Paint

Tux paint is a nice child friendly paint program that is supported by audio feedback i.e. different paint brush sizes make different sounds.

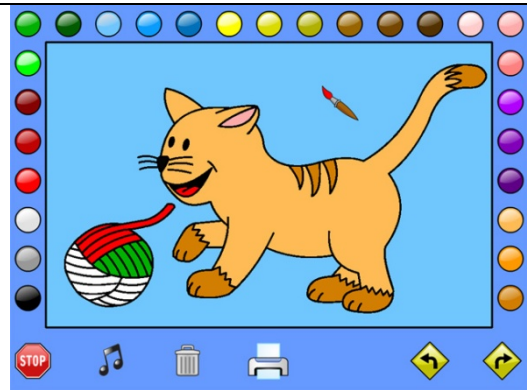
[www.tuxpaint.org](http://www.tuxpaint.org)



### Blue Cow

Blue Cow is a colouring book featuring 10 farm animals to colour. This program is a nice introduction to clicking and selecting. All pictures are automatically saved.

[www.bluecowgames.com/games.html](http://www.bluecowgames.com/games.html)



## Kea Coloring Book

The Kea Coloring Book is another colouring book but has more features than Blue Cow which can sometimes make it more complex.

[www.keasoftware.com/](http://www.keasoftware.com/)



## Free Online Games

The following games require your computer to be connected to the Internet whilst playing these games. As these are Internet based games it is easy for the child to accidentally navigate away from the game.

<a href="http://www.prongo.com">www.prongo.com</a>	Prongo has a series of online games for children aged under 6yrs. The games cover a range of activities such as mouse skills, Keyboard skills, Maths games, Memory games and Literacy games.
<a href="http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html">www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html</a>	Crickweb have a good range of online games for children aged under 5yrs.
<a href="http://www.playkidsgames.com">www.playkidsgames.com</a>	Free games to build mouse skills. Some games are particularly aimed at learning the alphabet.
<a href="http://www.starfall.com">www.starfall.com</a>	Free learning games to build mouse skills.
<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/games">www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/games</a>	A large range of online games based around Cbeebies characters. This site is constantly being updated and has a large range of games for all skill and input levels.
<a href="http://www.procreo.jp/labo/flower_garden.swf">www.procreo.jp/labo/flower_garden.swf</a>	Only one program but great for making a flower garden with a mouse or touch screen.

## Free Switch Games Resources

<a href="http://www.shinylearning.co.uk">www.shinylearning.co.uk</a>	Switch games that can be played online or downloaded for Windows.
<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/games/theme/switch">www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/games/theme/switch</a>	A large range of online games based around Cbeebies characters. This site is constantly being updated and has a large range of switch accessible games.
<a href="http://www.northerngrid.org/ngflwebsite/sennew/sen_software.html">www.northerngrid.org/ngflwebsite/sennew/sen_software.html</a>	SEN Switcher is range of cause and effect games designed to teach basic ICT skills.
<a href="http://www.oneswitch.org.uk">www.oneswitch.org.uk</a>	A resource with some arcade style switch games.
<a href="http://www.helpkidzlearn.com">www.helpkidzlearn.com</a>	Free games and activities from Inclusive Technology. Range of different games, stories and creative activities for all abilities. Can be used with switch, mouse or touch screen.
<a href="http://www.inclusive.co.uk">www.inclusive.co.uk</a>	Music Games, Talking Faces and SEN Switcher.
<a href="http://rjcooper.com">http://rjcooper.com</a>	A website that has a range of switch, mouse and keyboard activities that allows you to download and use FREE up to 7 times.
<a href="http://www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk">www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk</a>	Priorywoods has a large range of switch resources available for download.

## Free Resources

<a href="http://www.educational-freeware.com">www.educational-freeware.com</a>	This is a catalogue of free downloadable and online games for children under 5yrs. The games cover a wide range of skills and tasks.
<a href="http://www.totlol.com">www.totlol.com</a>	Totlol is an age appropriate video website designed specifically for children. It is community moderated and constantly growing.
<a href="http://www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk">www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk</a>	Priorywoods has a large range of switch resources and information of how to create your own resources. Such as 'Big Book Template' to create your own talking books.
<a href="http://www.allkids.co.uk">www.allkids.co.uk</a>	A website packed with lots of information surrounding children and play, including links to online stories and games.
<a href="http://www.symbolworld.org">www.symbolworld.org</a>	SymbolWorld is a website created by Widgit Software, dedicated to people who use symbols. It has material for all ages and includes personal contributions, stories and learning materials.
<a href="http://www.hiyah.net">www.hiyah.net</a>	This educational software is made for children 18 months to 4 years of age

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