Mouse practice for kids

Peabody · checked 2026-10-29

Practice the mouse right here in about three minutes: point at a star, click a balloon, drag a shape into a box and double-click an apple. The targets are big, nothing is timed, and a miss just waits for the next try. It works with a mouse or a finger. No sign-up, no typing, no ads.

The four mouse skills

- Skill: Point · What the hand does: Move the mouse so the arrow sits on the star. You don't need to press anything. · Where it is used: Every game and website: the arrow has to get to the thing first.
- Skill: Click · What the hand does: Point at the balloon, then press the left button once. · Where it is used: Buttons, answers and links.
- Skill: Drag · What the hand does: Press on the shape, hold the button down, slide it into the box, then let go. · Where it is used: Puzzles, sorting games and moving things in a drawing.
- Skill: Double-click · What the hand does: Press the left button twice, quickly, on the apple. · Where it is used: Opening files and apps on a computer.

How to help a little one

- Sit beside them, hands off the mouse. Say what to do in one short line, such as "Point the arrow at the star", and let them find it.
- Rest the wrist on the table. Most small hands move the whole arm at first. A mouse about the size of the child's palm is easier to steer.
- Left button only. The right button opens menus. It can wait.
- Slow is fine. Drag and double-click are the hardest; many children need a few tries over a few days. Stop when it stops being fun.
- No mouse? A finger on a phone or tablet works here, and a touchpad is a mouse that takes more practice: click with one finger and drag by holding the button while the other finger slides.

What each step practises

Point builds aim: the hand moves, the arrow follows, and the eyes keep track of both. Click adds a press that doesn't move the mouse, which is harder than it sounds at 4. Drag is a press, a slide and a release in order. Double-click is two presses at the same spot, quickly, and is the last to arrive; many apps today need only a single click, so it is fine to leave for later.

Games that use the same moves

Once the four steps feel easy, a real game is the natural next step. These need only pointing, clicking and a little dragging, and each answer is one of three boxes.

- Game: Pet Hatch · What you do: Hatch eggs, care for and breed pets, and ride them through nine 3D worlds. · Practises: making ten, adding, first sounds, rhymes
- Game: Build World · What you do: Build your own world, block by block. Fly, swim, and find the glowing Wonder blocks. · Practises: counting, making ten, first sounds, rhymes
- Game: Astro Rescue · What you do: Jump through space and free the lost bots. · Practises: counting, adding, first sounds, sight words
- Game: Deep Dig · What you do: Read the word on the block to dig deeper. · Practises: phonics, sight words

Every other game is in the arcade. Typing comes after: when pointing is easy, the typing games for kids teach the keyboard two keys at a time.

Questions parents ask

How long does mouse practice take?

About three minutes for all four steps. A child who is new to the mouse may want to do the page a few days in a row; the steps stay the same and get faster.

What age is it for?

Children from about 3 or 4 who have a grown-up beside them, through 6 or 7 for the double-click. The targets are large on purpose.

Is it free, and do we need an account?

Free through the end of 2026, with no ads, no sign-up and nothing to download.

Does it save or send anything?

No. The page runs in the browser and keeps nothing. There is no name, no typing and no score to store.

Does it work with a touchpad, a tablet or a phone?

Yes. A finger or a touchpad works for pointing, clicking and dragging, and two quick taps count as a double-click. A real mouse makes the double-click easiest to learn.

Why is the drag so hard for my child?

Because it asks the hand to press and slide at the same time. If the shape keeps dropping, hold the mouse still for a moment after pressing, then move slowly. If it slides back, nothing is

lost and the step simply tries again.

Free at peabody.kids/mouse-practice-for-kids