

How to Teach a 7-Year-Old to Use a Computer

A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents and Teachers

■ Introduction

Teaching children how to use a computer is a valuable skill in the digital age. This guide is designed to help parents, guardians, and educators introduce computer literacy in a safe, engaging, and age-appropriate manner for children aged 4–7.

■■ 1. Start With the Basics

Introduce computer parts using real or toy setups. Show and explain:

- Monitor/screen - Mouse - Keyboard - CPU (if desktop) - Power button

Let the child practice turning the computer on/off and using the mouse to click, double-click, drag, and drop.

■■ 2. Teach Navigation

Help the child understand how to use the desktop and basic applications:

- Identify icons and folders - Open and close windows - Launch Paint or Tux Paint for drawing - Play simple tasks like 'Open Paint, draw a flower, and save it.'

■■ 3. Introduce Simple File Skills

Explain the concept of files and folders. Teach the child how to: - Save a file with a name - Open files from specific folders like 'My Pictures'

■ 4. Introduce the Internet (Safely!)

Use a child-friendly browser or whitelist safe websites: - Kiddle (kiddle.co) - PBS Kids (pbskids.org) - National Geographic Kids Teach them what a link is, how to scroll, and search safely with help.

■■ 5. Teach Digital Manners and Safety

- Never share passwords - Don't click strange pop-ups - Only visit approved sites - Be kind online Use stories or cartoons to teach these concepts clearly.

■ 6. Fun & Creative Activities

Make learning enjoyable by introducing creativity: - Drawing: Tux Paint, Paint 3D - Music: Explore sound apps - Games: Coding and puzzle apps (Code.org, Scratch Jr., Lightbot)

■ 7. Simple Coding (Optional)

Introduce logic and programming with tools like: - Scratch Jr. - Code.org Courses (Grade 1–2) - Lightbot (puzzle app)

■ Useful Tools Summary

Tool	Purpose
Tux Paint	Drawing and mouse control
Scratch Jr.	Logic, creativity, programming
Dance Mat Typing	Typing skills
Kiddle / YouTube Kids	Safe browsing
Parental Controls	System safety

■ Final Tips

- Be patient and playful — turn sessions into fun missions. - Use repetition and gentle guidance. - Celebrate small achievements to keep motivation high. - Always supervise internet access for safety.

This guide is suitable for children aged 4 to 7. For even younger learners, reduce complexity and focus more on visual and tactile interaction.