

**EASY QUICKSTART GUIDE**

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# Kidwidget™

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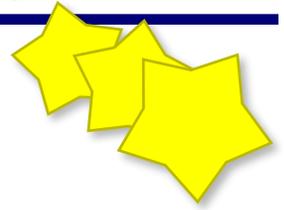
**FOR MACINTOSH & WINDOWS**



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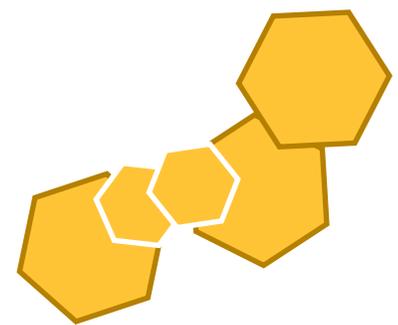
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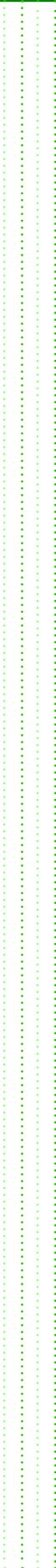
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# Installing Kidwidget

Kidwidget is very easy to install, and only takes a few seconds. Please follow the simple instructions below to install this software on your computer...

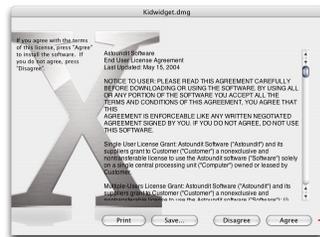


## Install Kidwidget On Macintosh

**Step 1)** After downloading the Kidwidget demo from our website, you'll see a file that looks like this...



**Step 2)** Double-Click (Open) that file, and you'll be shown our software agreement...



Click "Agree" To Continue

**Step 3)** The Kidwidget folder will now automatically open. To install, just drag the "Kidwidget" icon onto your computer. Though not required, we recommend that you install (Drag) it into your "Applications" folder. That's it! Kidwidget is now installed on your computer.



## Install Kidwidget On Windows

**Step 1)** After downloading the Kidwidget demo from our website, you'll see an installer icon that looks like this...



**Step 2)** Double-Click (Open) that installer, and follow the quick, simple steps to install...



After installation, Kidwidget will be available in your



"Start" menu for quick access...

# CHAPTER 1 : Welcome To Kidwidget!

Hey there, and welcome to Kidwidget - one of the most exciting (and kid-secure) software products available for families and children of all ages! This easy quickstart guide will help you explore the basics of Kidwidget, and show you the creative opportunities it can offer your family.

## So...What Can You Do With Kidwidget?

Computers are excellent learning tools for your kids, and can provide a virtually endless outlet for their creative minds to expand. But, when children use a computer unsupervised by an adult (or many times - even while supervised), they can lead to unsuitable content and material that may be inappropriate for your children.

Kidwidget solves this by allowing your children to have access to its built-in kid-friendly features; while at the same time, keeping them in a secured environment that keeps them separated from the rest of your computer (And the Internet).

## Tons of Cool Features - Built-In!

Since your children are able to safely use your computer while Kidwidget is running, we offer a variety of excellent educational and entertainment tools. Learning tools (also perfect for homework) include: Writing, Drawing, Painting, Dictionary, Flashcard Quiz, Calculator, and much more. Of course, a little bit of fun never hurts (and keeps them interested) such as the Musical Piano and Puzzle. As you will see later in this Quickstart Guide, any of these features can be turned off by you (the parent), at anytime. Your personal Parent Password ensures fast and easy access to your own customizable parent settings, while keeping your kids safe. All of this in a single, secure (your kids can't quit Kidwidget without your password), and kid-friendly environment.



# CHAPTER 2 : Starting Kidwidget

The first time you start Kidwidget, you'll see the registration screen. If you've already purchased Kidwidget, this is where you need to enter your name and serial number. If you're just trying the Kidwidget demo, you can use it 10 times, after which you must register to continue.

## Trial Mode

We want you to feel confident that Kidwidget can provide your family with an amazing computer experience. You can try this software on your computer 10 times before purchasing it. Just push the "Not Yet" button to start your trial period. Once you've decided that Kidwidget is right for you, just click on the "Buy Now" button to purchase this software on our secure website. Once your payment has been received, a personal serial number will be automatically sent to you via e-mail that will unlock Kidwidget into the full version. This is all done instantly, so you won't have to wait to continue using it (your kids will be happy about that too)!

## Registered Users

After you purchase Kidwidget, a personal serial number will be sent to your e-mail address. Next time you start Kidwidget, just type in your name, and enter this serial number into the space provided. Click the "Register" button, and the software will be unlocked for permanent use.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

# Kidwidget

This demo version can be used 10 times. After that, you must register to continue using it.

Name:

Serial Number:

Times Left Before Registering

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**astoundit**

Registration Screen

# CHAPTER 3 : First Start Wizard

To help you setup Kidwidget on your computer, we've included a very quick startup "Wizard" to walk you through it. The most important step in this Wizard is to set your personal Parent Password. This is the password that will allow you to access Kidwidget's parental settings (more on this soon).

Your Parent Password is any word that you choose. But, this should be a password (single word) that your children don't know, and won't be able to guess - as it allows access to your settings as a parent. Since Kidwidget is a secure environment for kids, your children will **not** be able to quit this program or exit out to your normal computer - your Parent Password is required for this as well. This is one of the most popular and important features of Kidwidget, as it allows your children to safely use the computer all alone, while you're across the room, or across the house.

Once you've setup Kidwidget, you can always change your Parent Password and other settings at anytime. To access them, you just click on the small text at the bottom-right of the Kidwidget window that says, "Parents". You'll then be asked to enter your Parent Password, and will have access to the parental settings.

Here's what the first start Wizard will look like...



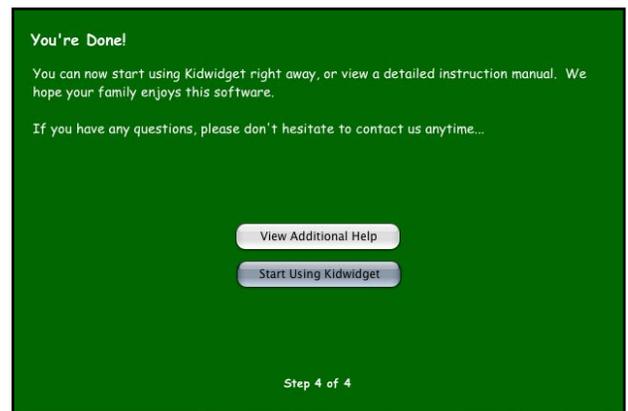
Step 1: Get Started



Step 2: Parent Password



Step 3: Quick Tip

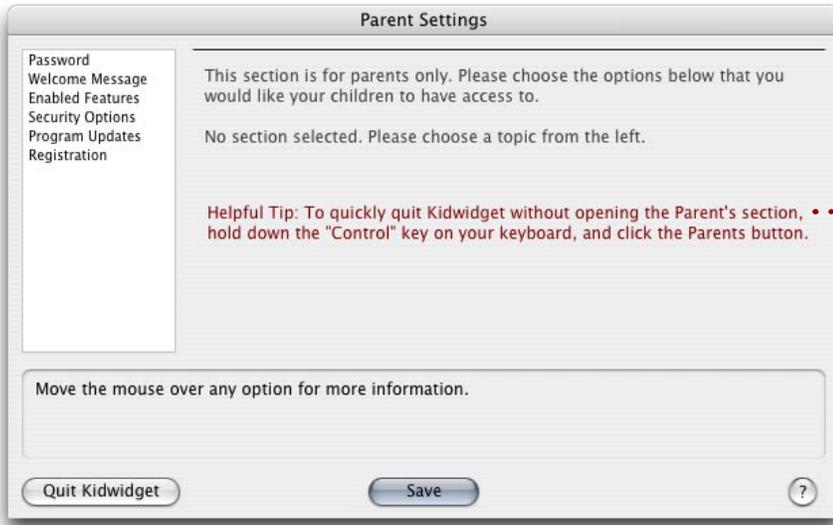


Step 4: View Help or Start Using Kidwidget

# CHAPTER 4 : Parent Settings

Kidwidget allows you (the parent) to set your own customized settings to regulate your children's usage. You can block access to any part of Kidwidget (such as the Puzzle - if you only want them doing homework). You can also easily turn on/off security settings such as printing - kids often like to print *many* pages...which can get expensive if you're not around. With Kidwidget, your children will have the feeling of being independent, which builds confidence - while at the same time, you can rest assured that they only have access to the features you allow.

The first time Kidwidget is started, you'll see the Wizard as shown in the previous section. After you finish that very quick Wizard setup, you'll be shown the default Parent Settings, which look like this...

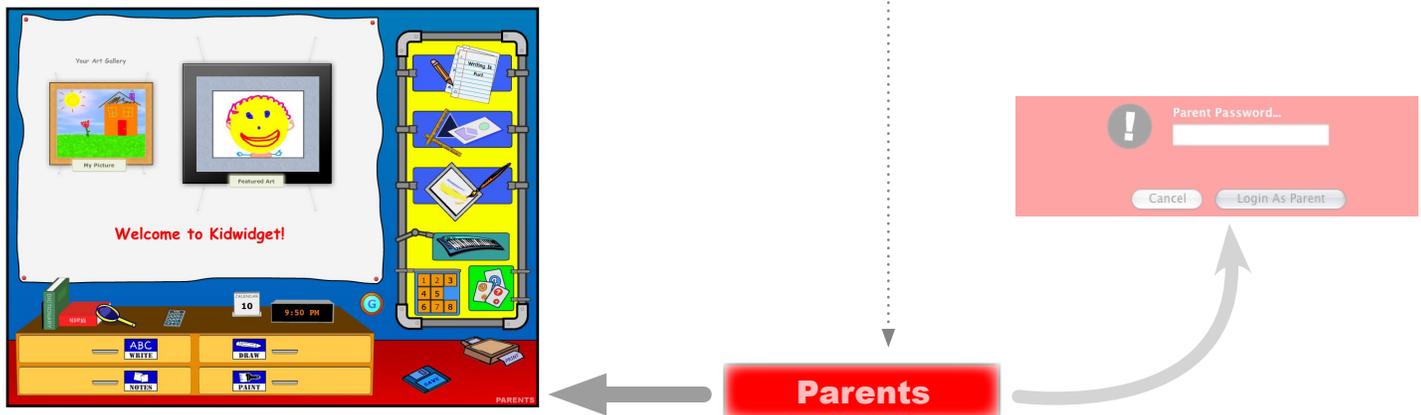


*Each time you open the Parent Settings, a helpful tip will be shown.*

Parent Settings

## How To Access Parent Settings Anytime

You always have access to your parent settings while in Kidwidget, so they can be changed at anytime. Of course, you'll need your Parent Password to access them. Anytime Kidwidget is open, look at the bottom-right of your screen and you will see the text "Parents". Just click on that text to access your parent settings.



## How To Quit Kidwidget

Since Kidwidget is a protected environment for your children, the program cannot be quit without your Parent Password. This ensures that your children will only have access to the features provided by Kidwidget, and keeps them out of the rest of your computer.

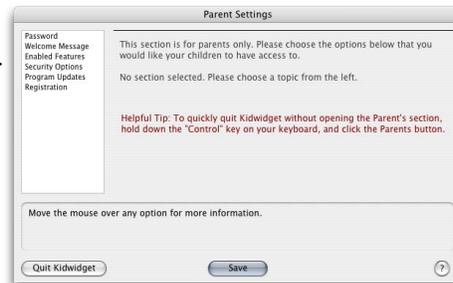
When you (the parent) wants to quit Kidwidget, just log into the parent settings as shown in the previous section, and click on the “Quit Kidwidget” button. Or, a quick way to exit Kidwidget is to hold down the “**CONTROL**” key on your keyboard, and click on the “Parents” button (Located at the bottom-right of the Kidwidget Program). Just enter your password, and instead of entering into your parent settings, the program will quit...



## Parent Settings In Detail

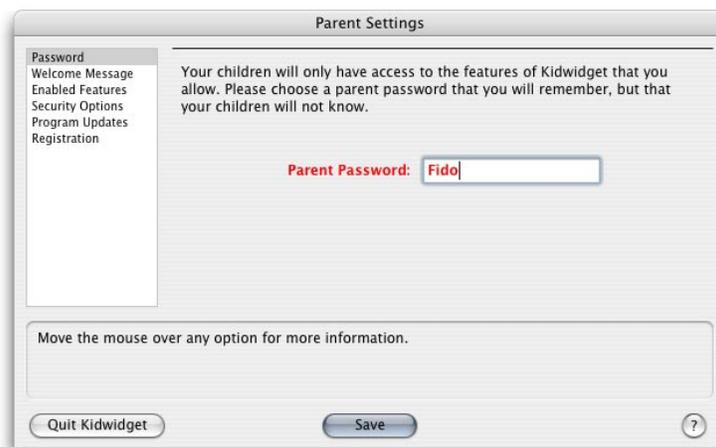
The parent settings are divided up into small sections to help you quickly choose the options that are right for your family. If you're unsure of any option, just move your mouse over that option, and a brief description will appear in the bottom section. When you're finished editing your settings, click on the “Save” button.

*Click on the section to .....  
access its settings.*



## Parent Settings : Password

If you ever need to change your Parent Password, this is where to go. Your new Parent Password will be used from then on.



## Parent Settings: Welcome Message

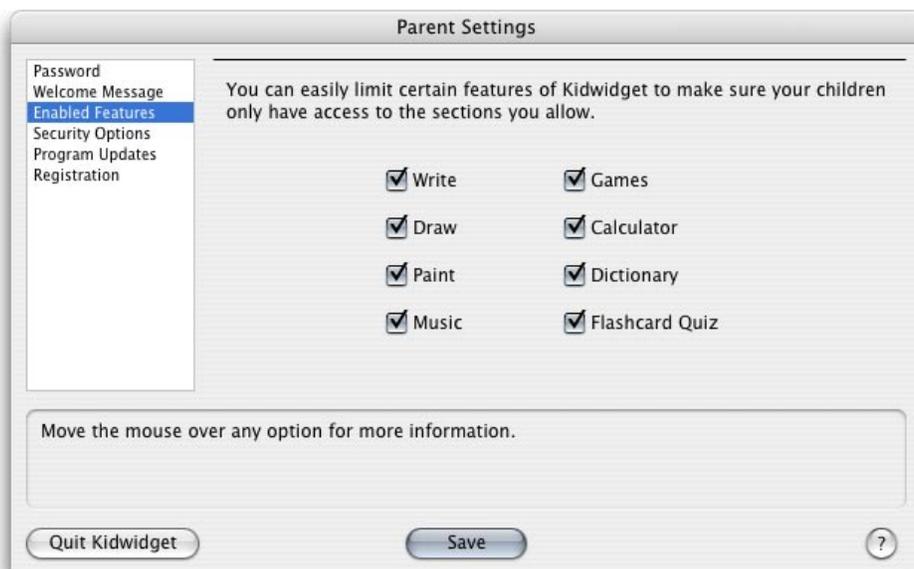
You can personalize the short message that appears when your children start using Kidwidget. By default, it is, “Welcome to Kidwidget!”. You can change it as often as you want, and it can be set to anything. A personal message from you is always a great inspiration to your kids, how about something like, “Hey Kids! Mom Loves You!”, or “Good Luck On Tomorrow’s Test Kevin!”...get creative!



## Parent Settings: Enabled Features

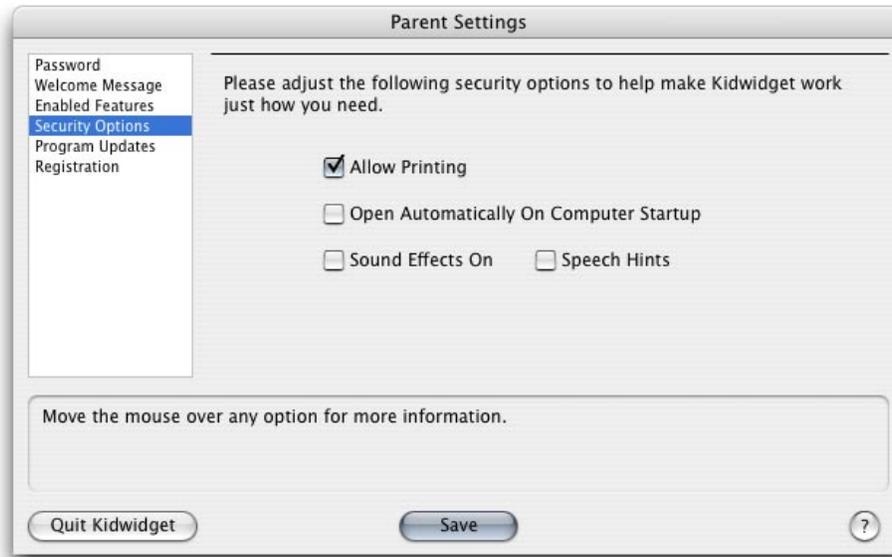
All of Kidwidget’s major features can be turned on/off by you, the parent. This could be done for many reasons, such as to turn off the “Games” and “Music” sections; which will help your child focus on their homework. Or, turn off everything except the “Flashcard Quiz” to ensure they study for that upcoming history test.

Just click on/off the section(s) that you’d like to allow your child to access. Any section(s) with a checkmark will be active.



## Parent Settings: Security Options

Kidwidget has many useful security options that can be used. Here is more information about each setting...



### Allow Printing

If enabled, your child will be allowed to print their work. Although this can be useful, as your child will often need to print out their homework or other projects, you may want to disable printing until you're able to supervise - since they (especially younger kids) seem to *greatly* enjoy seeing paper fly out of the printer rather quickly.

### Open Automatically On Computer Startup

If enabled, Kidwidget will be added to your computer's startup programs. This means that every time your computer is started, Kidwidget will automatically startup. This option is especially handy for educational settings such as classrooms and libraries; as well as in the home.

*Note: This feature is only available in the Macintosh version of Kidwidget.*

### Sound Effects On

If enabled, Kidwidget will play interactive sounds that are especially fun for younger users. If you use this option, please make sure to turn up your computer's volume before starting Kidwidget.

### Speech Hints

If enabled, your computer will actually "speak" to you as your computer's mouse is moved over Kidwidget's buttons and sections. Younger kids tend to love this feature. It also helps visually and audibly connect features to each other in your child's mind - a great learning tool. If you use this option, please make sure to turn up your computer's volume before starting Kidwidget.

*Helpful Sound Tip: If you use any of Kidwidget's sound features (Sound Effects or Speech Hints), please make sure that you have turned up your computer's volume before starting Kidwidget. If you try these options, and hear no sound, this is often the cause - just quit Kidwidget and adjust your computer's volume, then re-open Kidwidget.*

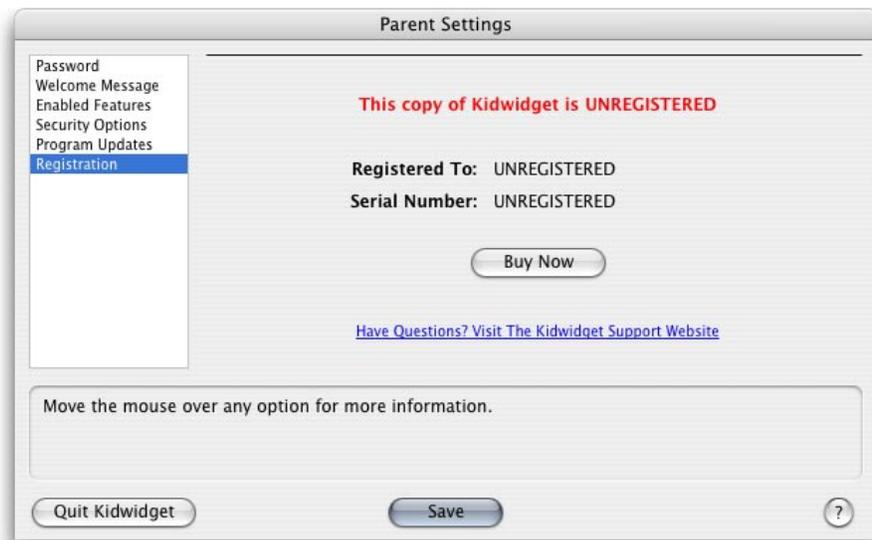
## Parent Settings: Program Updates

We're always busy adding new features to Kidwidget. To make sure you always have the newest version of Kidwidget, just click on the "Program Updates" section. This will show you the current version you have, and the newest version available. You can also see what's new in the newest release. If an update is available, just click on the "Download Update" button to get more information about the newest version.



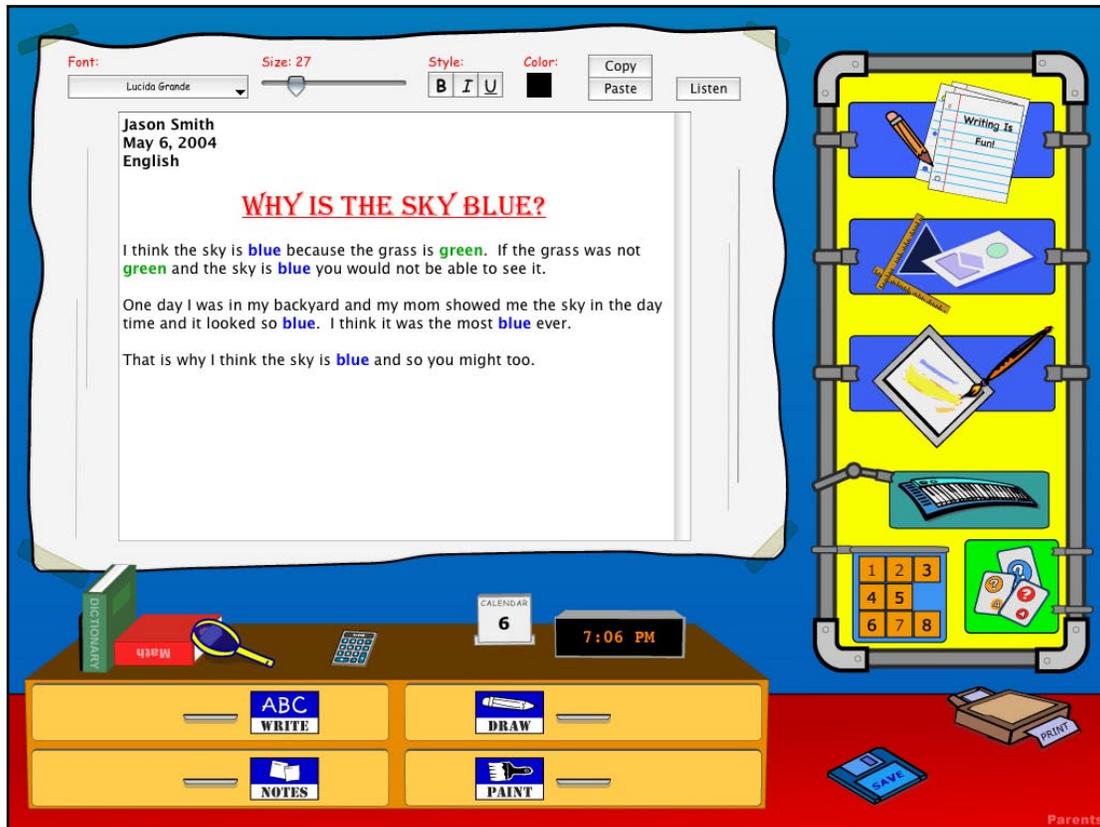
## Parent Settings: Registration

If you have purchased Kidwidget, you'll see your personal registration information in this section. If you ever need technical support, please include your "Serial Number" (Which can be found in this section). For new users, just click on the "Buy Now" button to purchase Kidwidget, and receive a personal serial number instantly.



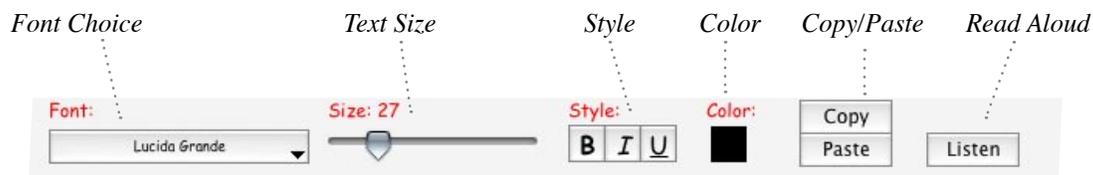
# CHAPTER 5 : Let's Write!

The first major built-in feature of Kidwidget that we'll explore is the Writing section. This is where your children can write homework, book reports, letters, and just about anything else. It's a fully-featured, kid-friendly word processor!



## Basic Features

Kidwidget's built-in word processor is very easy to use, yet powerful enough for even complicated reports. Text can be styled using any font(s) that you have on your computer, a kid-friendly text-size slider, styles (Bold, Italic, Underline), and colors. Advanced features include Copy and Pasting, and a button to read their text out loud on your computer speakers!



## Saving and Printing

To make things easy, there is only one "Save" button, and one "Print" button that will control all of Kidwidget's sections. If you're working on a Writing project and click the "Save" button, you can save the writing project; likewise, this works for the Painting and Drawing sections as well.

The "Print" feature will only work if you have the "Printing" feature turned on in your parent settings. More on both of these features in "Chapter 9: Extra Tools".



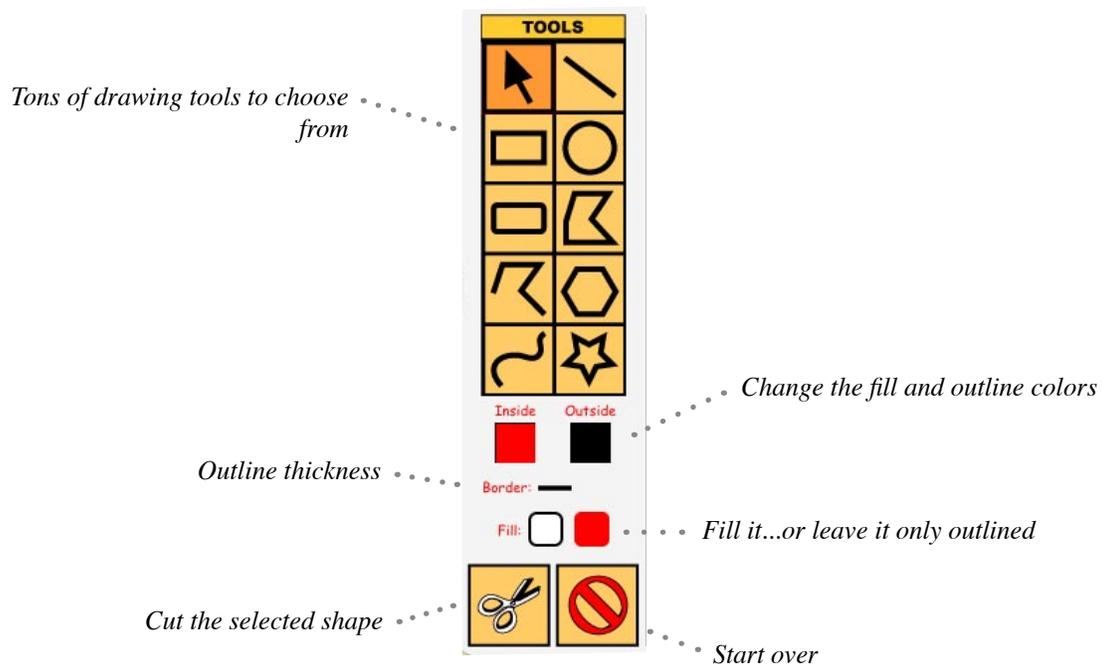
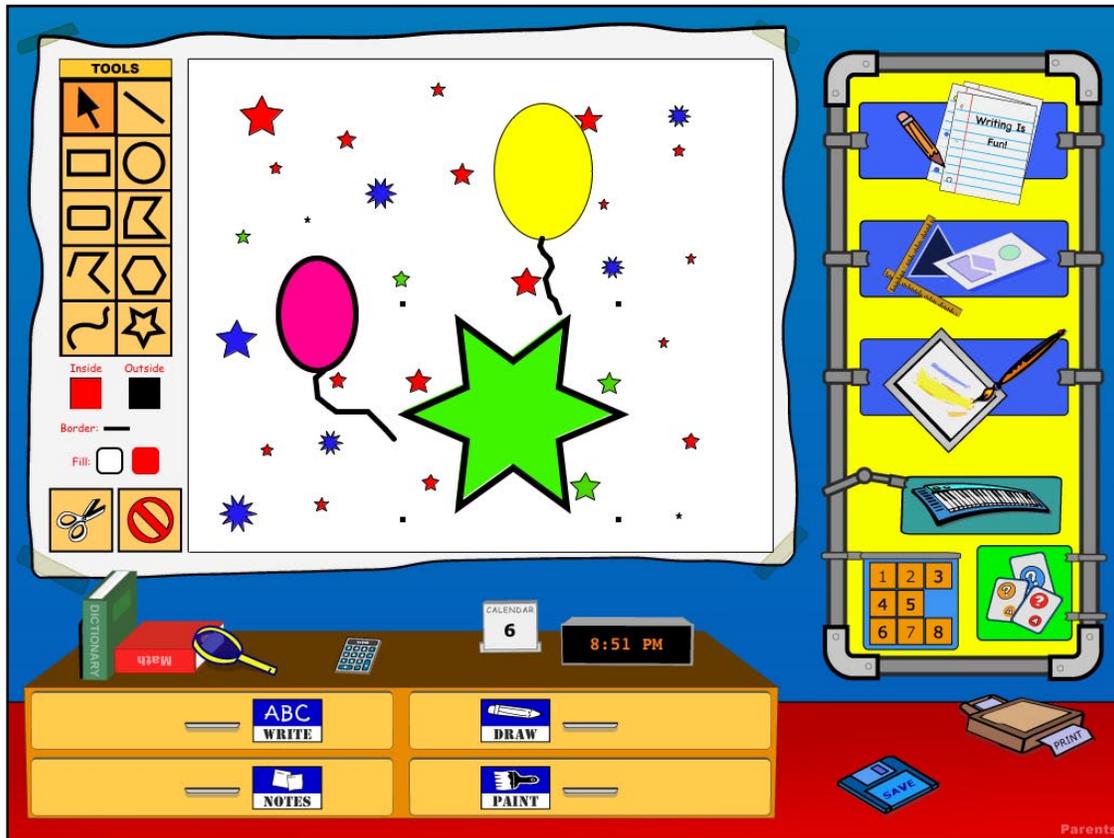
Save



Print

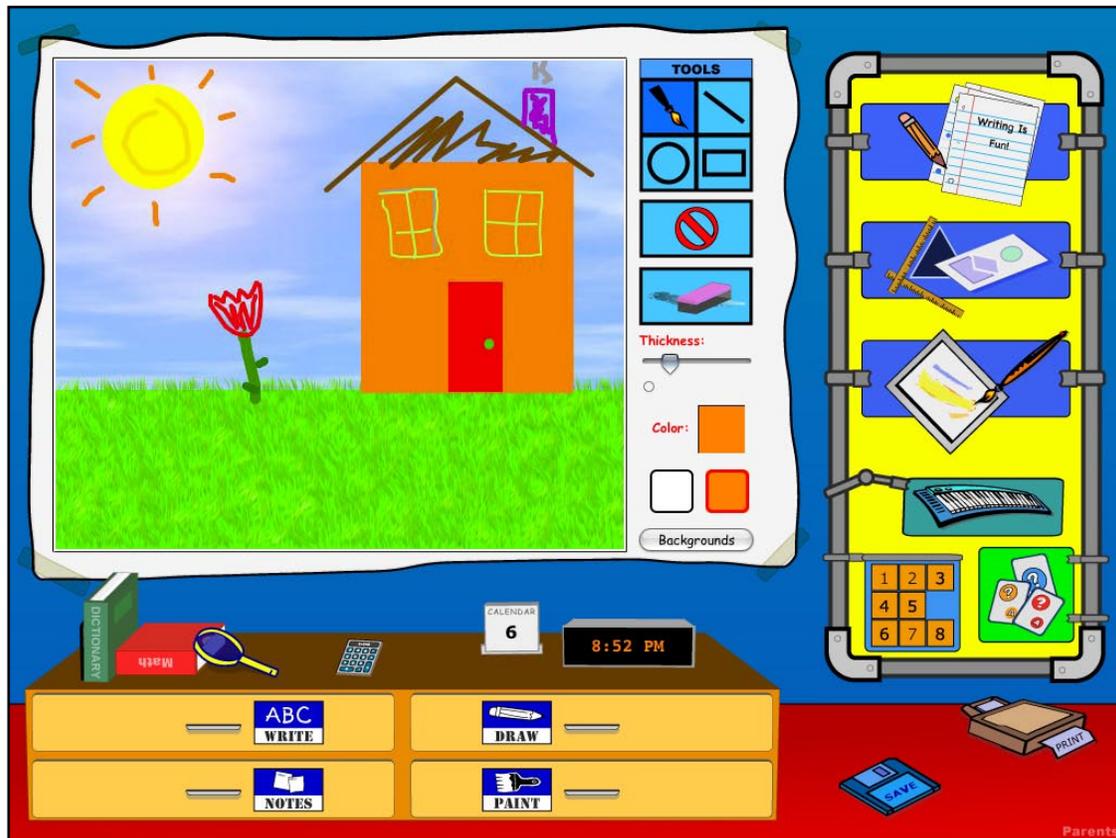
# CHAPTER 6 : Draw!

It's a little known fact...kids love to draw! Kidwidget's built-in Drawing section lets children create dazzling pictures using a variety of kid-friendly tools. Every shape that's drawn can be later edited, which helps get each and every drawing exactly how they want it.



# CHAPTER 7 : Paint!

Kidwidget also includes an easy-to-use Paint section. Children can quickly create masterpieces from scratch, or start with one of our included background pictures. An almost unlimited number of colors and options make this feature one of the most popular in Kidwidget.

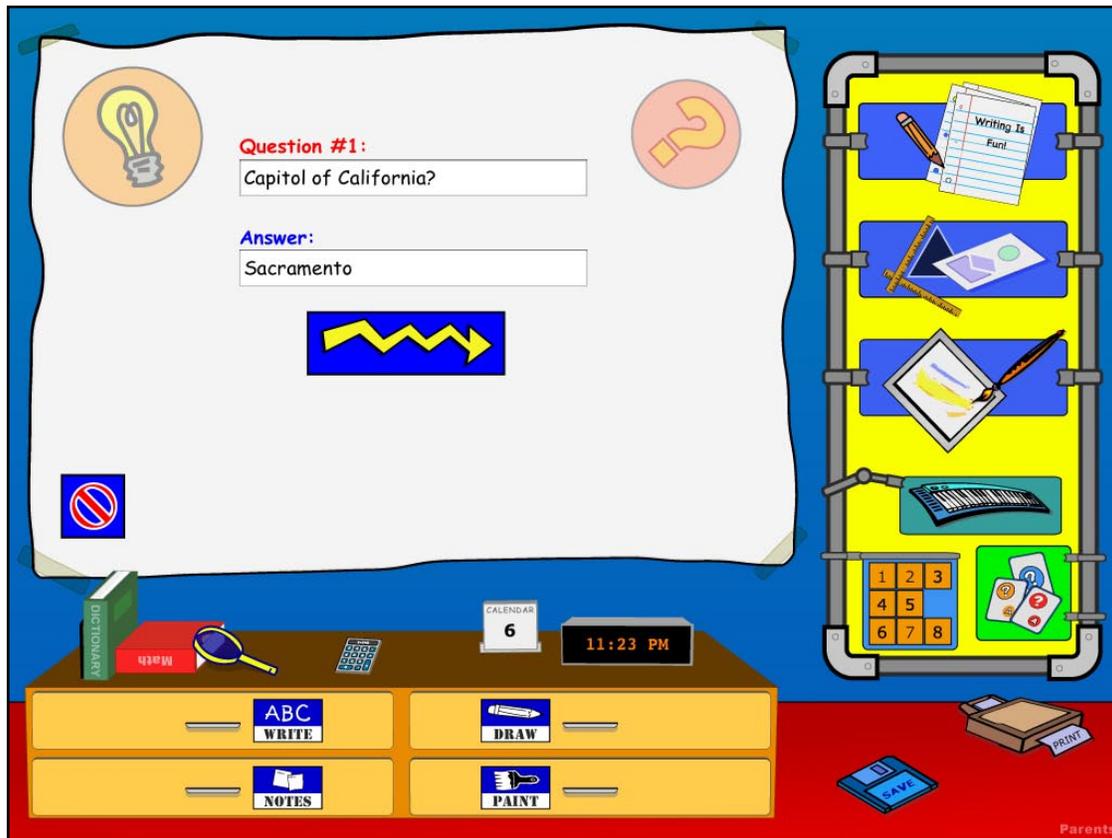


## Draw & Paint...What's The Difference?

Kidwidget's Drawing and Painting sections may seem similar at first, but there's a major difference that separates them. Think of the Drawing section as a tool for making designs using shapes cut out of paper. These shapes can be moved around, reshaped, and then moved around again - all layered on top of each other. You can easily resize any shape you've made at anytime. On the other hand, the Painting section is more like an actual painting canvas. You use brushes to draw on the paint canvas, and the shapes mix together to create smooth paintings. In Painting, you can always use the eraser, but there's no way to change individual shapes, it's all considered to be one single masterpiece of ink.

# CHAPTER 8 : Flashcard Quiz

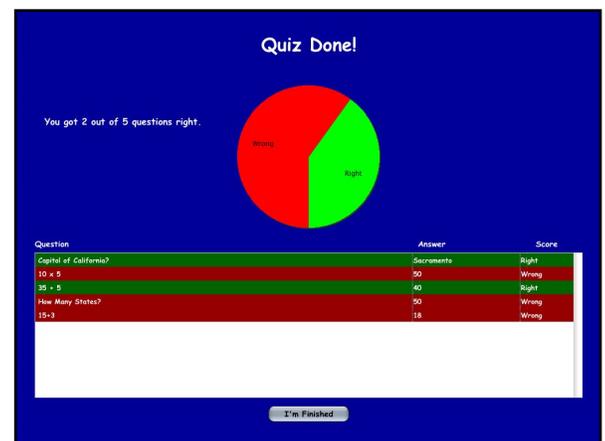
Flashcards can be a very effective learning tool. Kidwidget's built-in Flashcard Quiz section lets your children create their own virtual quiz to help practice just about anything. Math, English, Science, History - all of these subjects require your kids to learn many new topics and facts; and all of those subjects can be effectively studied using this easy tool. This is also an excellent practice tool for spelling tests!



## Detailed Reports

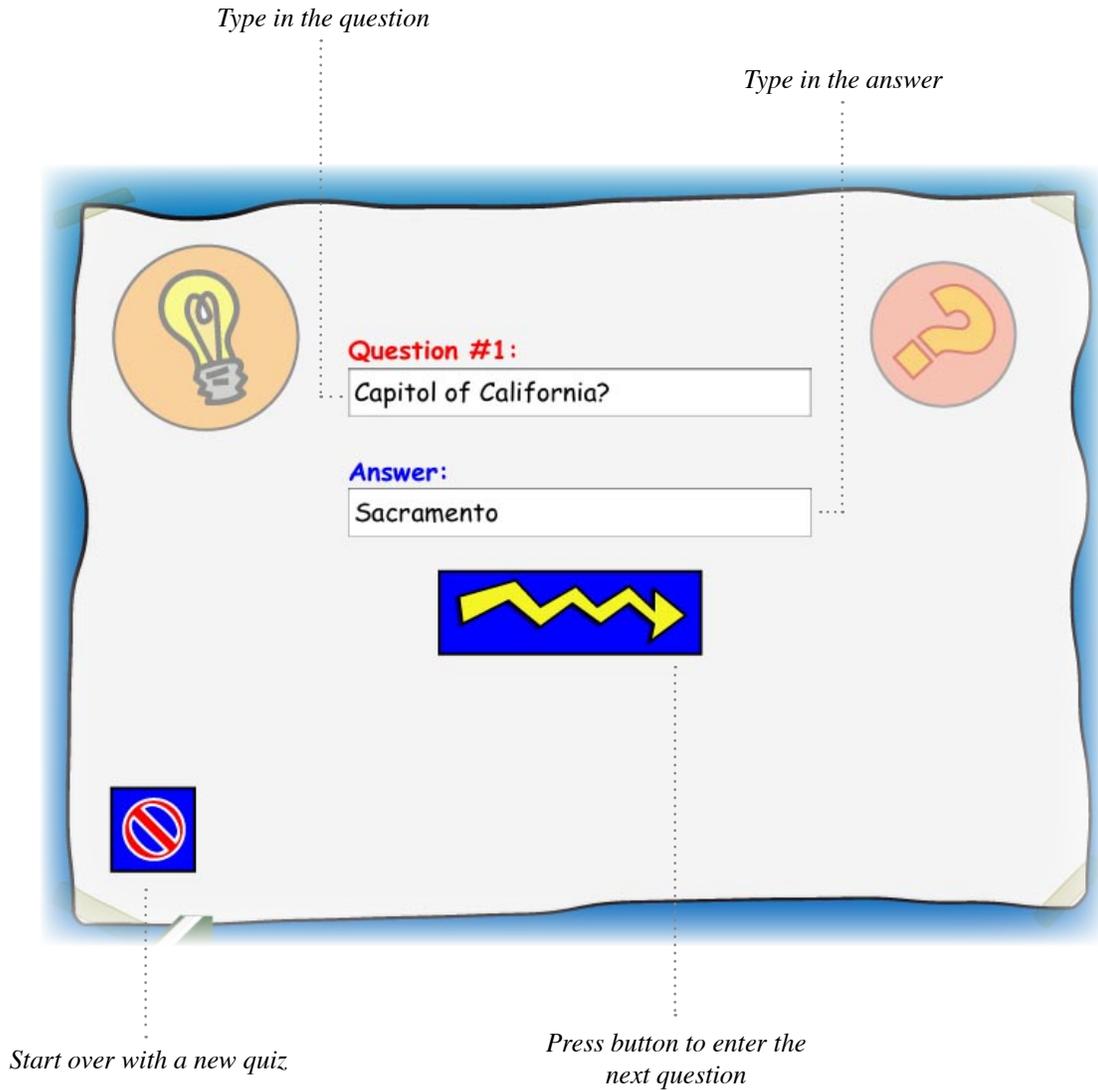
Each time a Flashcard Quiz is finished, a detailed report and chart will be shown - along with a summary of the questions and correct answers. Just like a stoplight, **green = correct**, **red = wrong**...it can't get any easier than this.

These reports can also provide you (the parent) with valuable information, and can help you recognize problem-areas in your child's study habits.



## It's Easy!

The best part about Kidwidget's Flashcard Quiz is that it's EASY. Your children won't have to learn any complicated new tools or programs, they're free to concentrate on what's important - their study material...



# CHAPTER 9 : Extra Tools

When you've finished a project in Kidwidget, whether it's a painting, drawing, book report, etc., you'll probably want to save and/or print it. Don't worry - this is easy too!



## Saving Projects

When you're ready to save something that you're working on in Kidwidget (Writing, Drawing, or Painting), just click on the "Save" button (it looks like a computer disk). Then, just type in a name for that project. You can name each project anything you'd like, but each project must be named something different, which makes it easy to find and open it later...



## Printing Projects

If you've enabled "Printing" in the parent settings, your child can quickly and easily print out their projects on your printer. Just click on the "Print" button (it looks like a printer). If you do not want your children to be allowed to print, you can easily turn off this setting in the parent settings (see "Chapter 4 : Parent Settings" for more information).

## Color Choices

Each "Creative Section" of Kidwidget (Writing, Drawing, and Painting) let your child use an unlimited number of colors to liven things up. To colorize the selected object (Such as a word in a Writing project, or a square in a Drawing project), just click on the colored square, then click on the color you want to use - it's that easy! We've included larger squares for the most-used colors, and there's also a full rainbow of choices available...



**Step 2:**  
Click on the color you want to use.

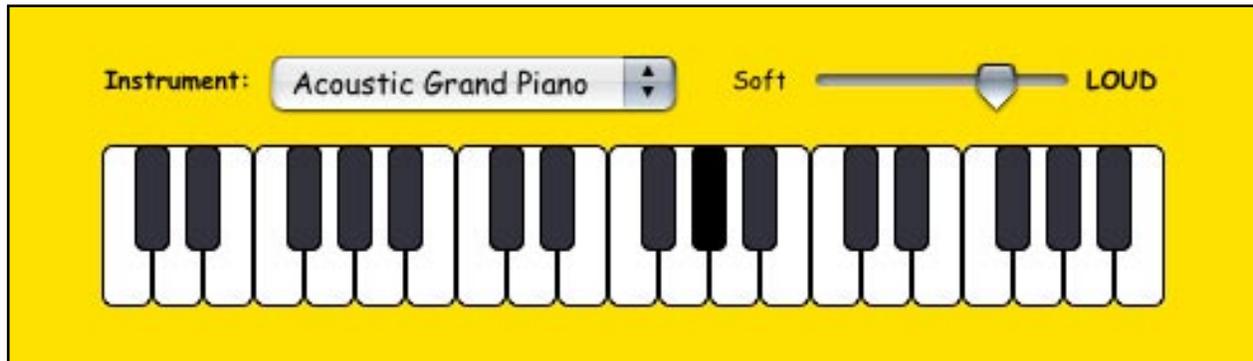
**Step 1:**  
Click on the colored square to see available color choices.

# CHAPTER 10 : Time For Fun

All work and no play? That's no fun! Kidwidget includes 2 very cool toys for children of all ages to play with. If you do not want your child using these toys, you can easily turn them off in the parent settings.

## Piano

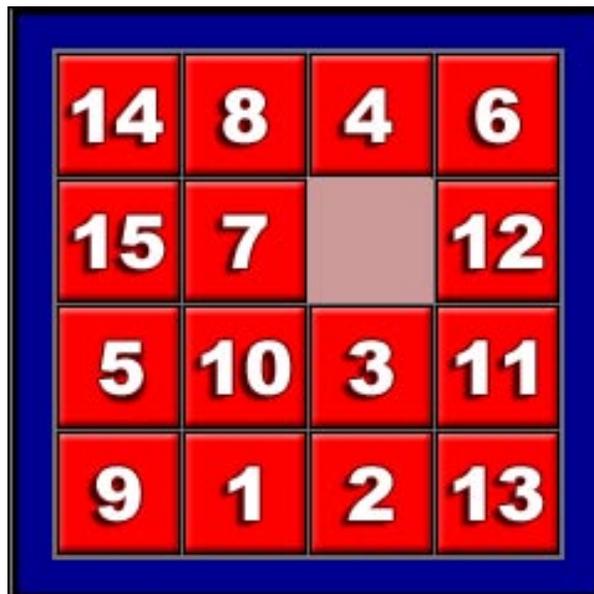
Kidwidget's piano is just like a real piano. You press the keys, and it makes a specific sound. But, our piano is special - it not only plays *piano*, but also many other instruments. With a variety of musical instruments to play, your child will discover a wide-range of sounds and tones.



*Cool Tip: You can also control the piano by pressing different keys on your computer's keyboard (try pressing the bottom two rows of keys). With a little practice, you could be the next Mozart!*

## Puzzle

Although it might just look like fun and games, the Kidwidget slide-puzzle is a great way to introduce strategy and logical thinking to your children. The object of the game is to arrange the numbers in order, from 1 to 15. Each number can be slid into the empty spot. Each time you play, the game will be different for endless fun!



# CHAPTER 11 : Encourage Exploration!

Kidwidget has many other cool secrets hiding just beneath the surface. Try clicking on the clock, calendar, or magna-glass...

11:45:16 PM

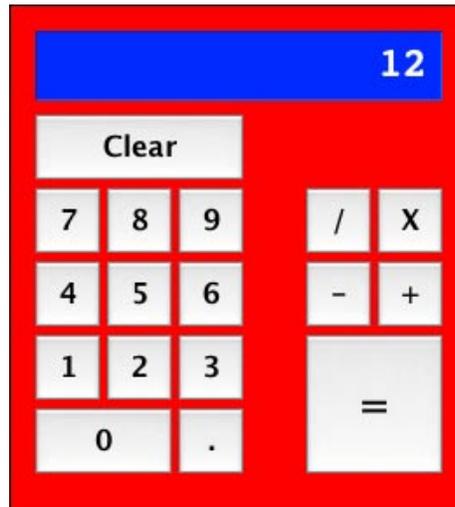


# CHAPTER 12 : Homework Helpers

There are 2 very useful tools in Kidwidget that come in especially handy for tough homework problems.

## Calculator

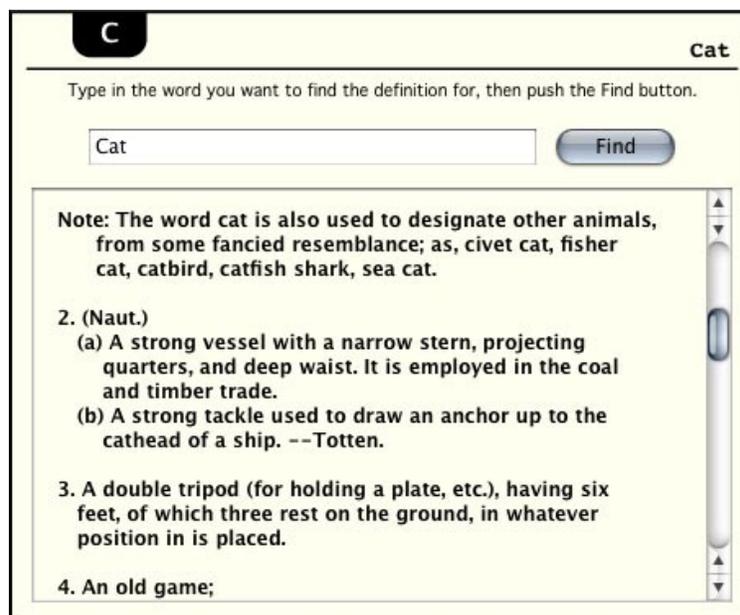
The Kidwidget Calculator works just like a normal calculator. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. If you're child is working on math homework, and isn't supposed to use a calculator - just turn off this option in your parent settings.



## Dictionary

Kidwidget has a built-in, fully interactive dictionary to help your children find the definition of words. Just type in any word, press the "Find" button, and you'll see every definition of that word...cool! If needed, you can also disable this section in your parent settings.

To be extra-safe, our dictionary is filtered, and won't allow your children to lookup inappropriate words or bad language. If a known bad word is entered, a message will be shown, and the definition will not be displayed.



*\*Dictionary requires and Internet connection.*

# CHAPTER 13 : Take Notes

Notes are a great way to keep organized, remember important events, and learn how to store daily information. Kidwidget's Notes section lets your children make an unlimited number of notes, and keep them organized in a nice, clean interface.



⋮  
*Click On The Notes Drawer*

## To Add Or Delete Notes

To add a new note, just type in the info you'd like to remember, and type in a title for it (in the space next to "My Notes:"). Then, just click on the "+" button to add it.

To delete any note, just press the "-" button. It's that easy!

# CHAPTER 14 : Open Projects

Since you can easily save any project you're working on in Kidwidget, you need an easy way to open them as well. Each time you save a project, it goes into your virtual "Filing Cabinet". Your filing cabinet is divided up into the same sections - Write, Draw, Paint, and Notes.

## How To Open A Project

Click on the drawer to see a list of your projects of that type. For example, you would click on the "Writing" drawer to see a list of your saved Writing projects. Just choose any project from the list, and press the "Open" button, which looks like this...



Your project will now open. If you want, you can start working on it again, or even print it.

## How To Delete A Project

Select the project you want to delete, and press the "Delete" button, which looks like this...



Open Writing Project



Open Drawing Project



Open Painting Project

# CHAPTER 15 : Handwriting Practice

Learning to write is one of the most-essential skills your child will ever learn. While typing on the keyboard is obviously a very useful skill too, nothing compares to writing by hand. So, we made sure to include support for the Macintosh's built-in handwriting recognition. This exciting technology will automatically recognize the text you write, and convert it into typed text! The only thing you need to take advantage of this is a small computer accessory called a "Pen Tablet", which is like a virtual pen and paper. Together, the Macintosh and Kidwidget are a match made in heaven.



This feature is not a requirement, but it is available to any user that does have a "Pen Tablet". If you don't yet have one, you can purchase a tablet separately for under \$100. Check our website ([www.astoundit.com](http://www.astoundit.com)) for a list of retailers.

## How To Start "Ink"

If you're using a Macintosh, your computer already has advanced handwriting technology built-in called "Ink"! To use it with Kidwidget, just connect your pen tablet to your computer. Then, open your "System Preferences" (located in the "Apple" menu at the top-left of your screen), and click on the "Ink" button.

Now, just click on the option to turn **On** Handwriting recognition, and check the box next to "**Allow me to write anywhere**". Your window should look similar to this...





# APPENDIX : About Astoundit Software

## How To Contact Astoundit Software

Please use the following information to contact us. To keep our retail product prices as low as possible, we do not provide phone support; for fastest service please contact us via our online technical support “ticket system” (fastest and preferred method), or by e-mail. We can usually respond to you within 24 - 48 hours during normal business hours. Our website also offers technical support for many of your most common questions.

Business Hours: Monday - Friday  
9:00am - 5:00pm PST

Website: [www.astoundit.com](http://www.astoundit.com)

Technical Support Website: [www.astoundit.com/support](http://www.astoundit.com/support)

E-Mail: [support@astoundit.com](mailto:support@astoundit.com)

Mailing Address: Astoundit Software  
2060-E Avenida de los Arboles, #D 362  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

## Technical Support Questions

*I have a question or problem with my software, how do I get help?*

The easiest way to get immediate help with the most common issues is to visit our support website, which can provide you with immediate answers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week ([www.astoundit.com/support](http://www.astoundit.com/support)). We've also provided a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) to help you with the most common problems. If you have an issue that is not answered on our website, please contact our support team by using our fast and easy “[ticket](#)” system that will assign your question a unique “ticket” number. This will allow us to respond as quickly as possible - this is the preferred method of technical support communication.

Ongoing direct technical support is only available to registered users. For fastest responses, please give us as much detail about your problem that you can, including your operating system (Macintosh or Windows). The more details you can provide about your issue, the quicker and easier we will be able to help you find a solution.

**We would like to thank you for supporting Kidwidget, and hope that you and your family enjoy this software as much as we enjoyed making it.**

*- Astoundit Software's Development Team*

# Kidwidget™

## Easy Quickstart Guide and Documentation Kidwidget

### Astoundit Software

2060-E Avenida de los Arboles, #D 362  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Find us on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.astoundit.com>  
To report errors, please send a note to [info@astoundit.com](mailto:info@astoundit.com)

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