

Just a comment about the limitations of the touch screens. The 3M Micro Touch monitors use surface capacitance to detect touch (which has the distinct advantage of being sensitive, rugged and robust). When a finger is placed on the glass panel, the capacitance of the human body alters the reference capacitance of the sensor panel. Measurements at each corner of the sensor panel help calculate the distortion of the reference field and, from that calculation, derive the X and Y coordinates of the touch point. This means that only a single touch can be registered at any point in time (a good thing for our needs). However, the surface can only be activated when touched by a 'live' fingertip. It will ***not*** be activated by a stylus (aka pen or pencil), fingernail or gloved hands.

The crucial point is fingernails. If the child has long fingernails or touches the monitor with a curved finger (for example, a closed fist punching motion) such that the fingernail is making contact with the screen, no touch is registered. Even coming at the screen 'head on' with a stabbing motion may not register if only the child's fingernail makes contact.

In the practice session, emphasize to the child to make a pressing motion with the fleshy pad of their fingertip making full contact with the screen. A motion similar to making a finger print is ideal. A downward swipe should be OK but if the child is making an upward swipe to the screen, it is likely the fingernail is making contact first.

If the child has noticeably long finger nails, you may want to tactfully ask the parent to trim them.