

## Case Study, Reese and Courtney Blum

### **Typio Motivates Students, Provides Peace of Mind for Parents**

[Pull Quotes...]

*“Reese hated the other typing program she’d been using. Her teacher expected her to get a score of 95 percent or higher five times in a row before moving on to the next lesson. Reese told me it was boring to repeat the same thing over and over. The program itself wasn’t very fun, either.”*

– Courtney Blum, Mother of Reese

*“Using Typio, Reese got really fast at typing. I thought she was just playing the built-in games, but she actually decided to work through the typing lessons on her own initiative.”*

– Courtney Blum, Mother of Reese

*“The Typing Pet is my favorite thing about Typio! You get to train your pet. It makes the whole thing fun!”*

– Reese Blum, Age 8

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When education was forced to go virtual, a family’s local public school introduced them to adaptive software that has changed their lives. Courtney Blum and her daughter Reese live with their family in Raleigh, North Carolina. Reese, who is blind, is in third grade.

#### **How to Learn Typing With Teachers at a Distance**

With the rise of distance education, Reese needed a remote solution to learn keyboarding skills. The typing program she had been using was only accessible through a school computer and couldn’t be used at home.

“Reese hated the other typing program she’d been using,” said Courtney Blum, Reese’s mother. “Her teacher expected her to get a score of 95 percent or higher five times in a row before moving on to the next lesson. Reese told me it was boring to repeat the same thing over and over. The program itself wasn’t very fun, either.”

Reese’s school recommended Typio as an accessible distance learning option. It turned out to be the missing piece they needed to make learning fun.

### **Typio: Virtual, Fun, Motivational**

Typio, one of the apps on the cloud-based AccessiByte platform, is compatible with multiple devices and offers fully guided keyboard instruction. All of the AccessiByte apps are self-voicing, highly visual and easy to use, so no other technology is required for blind or visually impaired users to gain access.

Reese’s teachers sent the login information for Typio, and she wanted to try it right away. When Reese realized that she could navigate the entire program on her own, she was hooked.

“I wasn’t involved at all,” said Courtney. “She loved Typio so much that we had to use it as a reward so that she would get her other schoolwork done.”

As Reese progressed through Typio’s lessons, she earned coins to buy virtual items for her Typing Pet. The further that she progressed the more coins she earned. Each time that she got something new for her Typing Pet the program would audibly describe the changes taking place.

“Using Typio, Reese got really fast at typing,” said Courtney. “I thought she was just playing the built-in games, but she actually decided to work through the typing lessons on her own initiative.”

### **From Knowing Home Row to Sending Emails—in Three Weeks!**

Courtney noticed that Reese learned the layout of the entire keyboard within three weeks of using Typio. She asked her daughter if she would like to send an email to her teacher and text her grandmothers. Reese excitedly agreed and has been corresponding with all three of them since. Reese has also expressed the desire to type school assignments on the computer in

addition to writing them in braille. Courtney attributes these changes to Typio being so fun and easy to use.

“Because Typio was fun, Reese was motivated to learn how to type,” said Courtney. “She wanted to use Typio on her own, so we taught Reese how to navigate the computer so she could log in by herself.”

Reese also plays games with AccessiByte Arcade, another app on the AccessiByte platform. It was the first time she had been able to play video games adapted for her needs. Some of the games built upon Reese’s typing skills, while others taught her how to navigate computer menus.

“Her brother plays video games, and now Reese has an electronic game of her own,” said Courtney. “Her brother is jealous of Reese because Typio is so fun. Personally I think Typio is a way better tool than the one my son is using.”

Courtney recommends Typio to other parents and teachers, even those with fully sighted children. She plans on having her daughter continue to use AccessiByte products in the future. She’s eager for Reese to try the other apps, such as ProPack and Quick Cards.

“A lot of times people have to show Reese things or describe them to her,” said Courtney. “With Typio, she knows things that we don’t know and has to tell us. It has been so confidence boosting.”

Reese swapped audio game recommendations with other students in her area who are blind or visually impaired.

“The Typing Pet is my favorite thing about Typio!” said Reese. “You get to train your pet. It makes the whole thing fun!”

## [Sidebar]

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### **The Solutions**

- Typio: a cloud-based typing tutor complete with built-in assistive technology
- Compatible with Mac, PC, iOS, Chromebook and Android devices

- Features Typing Pet, a fun engagement tool to motivate student progression
- AccessiByte Arcade: a collection of accessible games available on the cloud-based AccessiByte platform
- Games include single-button action, letter-based keyboarding, strategic menu navigation and more

## **About AccessiByte**

AccessiByte is a software company committed to creating fun, fully accessible apps that promote student learning and provide teacher flexibility. To learn more, visit [www.accessiByte.com](http://www.accessiByte.com).

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