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## **CHILDREN WORK SMARTER WITH INNOVATIVE KEYBOARD AND SOFTWARE**

At the Education Show 2005 (17-19 March, NEC, Birmingham) Grape County Limited (stand EY18) will introduce the tools that teachers need to teach Primary school children to touch type.

The tools - a reduced sized keyboard and a touch typing tutor - are both designed specifically with children in mind.

Children, by definition, have smaller hands than adults, and by giving them a smaller keyboard it allows them to reach the keys without over stretching. A tool that, until now, they simply didn't have.

Now that children can reach the keys, they will become more productive as they spend less time hunting for the keys they want and more time getting their thoughts down. And because the children are more proficient at typing, teachers will have more time to teach more of their subject.

Grape County is a new company to the Education sector and the first ever to provide both of these innovative tools together in a single package. By providing both the reduced sized keyboard and touch-typing tutor, teachers will have the essential tools that they need to teach children the life-long and empowering skill of touch typing.

“In our initial studies we found that teachers, children and parents embraced whole heartedly the keyboard and software and the desire to do something that they hadn't been able to do before, namely, for the teachers to teach, and the children to learn, to touch type. The success of the initial studies is very encouraging and we look forward to a time when everybody can type at over 30 words per minute.” commented Martin McAvoy founder and CEO of Grape County.

The keyboard, which has 104 keys and comes with a mini-mouse, is reduced to approximately 75% of the standard adult keyboard by making the keys and the spaces between them smaller. Further, the software has such a novel and refreshing approach that children want to use it. And for teachers, the software comes with a utility which allows them to customise the lessons that the children use.

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### **Notes to Editor**

The reduced sized keyboard and touch typing software are available to the Education Sector now.

**For further information, please contact:**

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