

BabyKeys For Windows

Software for Little Folks!

BabyKeys
User's Guide

NOTICE

Published by: Multi-Computing
1051 Stuyvesant Avenue
Suite 347
Union, New Jersey 07083
Telephone: 908-241-8071

Copyright: This manual and software are copyrighted
by Multi-Computing.

**(C) COPYRIGHT 1996 BY MULTI-COMPUTING.
ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED WORLDWIDE.**

Selected images in this program are
copyrighted by Softkey International,
Inc.

Definition of Shareware Shareware distribution gives users a chance to try software before buying it. If you try a Shareware program and continue using it, you are expected to register. Individual programs differ on details -- some request registration while others require it, some specify a maximum trial period. With registration, you get anything from the simple right to continue using the software to an updated program with printed manual.

Copyright laws apply to both Shareware and commercial software, and the copyright holder retains all rights, with a few specific exceptions as stated below. Shareware authors are accomplished programmers, just like commercial authors, and the programs are of comparable quality. (In both cases, there are good programs and bad ones!) The main difference is in the method of distribution. The author specifically grants the right to copy and distribute the software, either to all and sundry or to a specific group. For example, some authors require written permission before a commercial disk vendor may copy their Shareware.

Shareware is a distribution method, not a type of software. You should find

software that suits your needs and pocketbook, whether it's commercial or Shareware. The Shareware system makes fitting your needs easier, because you can try before you buy. And because the overhead is low, prices are low also. Shareware has the ultimate money-back guarantee -- if you don't use the product, you don't pay for it.

Disclaimer - Agreement Users of BabyKeys must accept this disclaimer of warranty: "BabyKeys is supplied as is. The author disclaims all warranties, expressed or implied, including, without limitation, the warranties of merchantability and of fitness for any purpose. The author assumes no liability for damages, direct or consequential, which may result from the use of BabyKeys."

BabyKeys is a "shareware program" and is provided at no charge to the user for evaluation. Feel free to share it with your friends, but please do not give it away altered or as part of another system. The essence of "user-supported" software is to provide personal computer users with quality software without high prices, and yet to provide incentive for programmers to continue to develop new products. If you find this program useful and find that you are using BabyKeys and continue to use BabyKeys after a reasonable trial period, you must make a registration payment of \$19.95, to Multi-Computing. The \$19.95 registration fee will license one copy for use on any one computer at any one time. You must treat this software just like a book. An example is that this software may be used by any number of people and may be freely moved from one computer location to another, so long as there is no possibility of it being used

1 Shipping/Handling is free in the United States. Please see the order form on page 11 for international shipping rates.

at one location while it's being used at another. Just as a book cannot be read by two different persons at the same time.

Anyone distributing BabyKeys for any kind of remuneration must first contact Multi-Computing at the address below for authorization. This authorization will be automatically granted to distributors recognized by the (ASP) as adhering to its guidelines for shareware distributors, and such distributors may begin offering BabyKeys immediately (However Multi-Computing must still be advised so that the distributor can be kept up-to-date with the latest version of BabyKeys.). Distributors and vendors can contact Multi-Computing using the following address or telephone number:

Multi-Computing
1051 Stuyvesant Avenue
Suite 347
Union, NJ 07083

Telephone: 908-241-8071

You are encouraged to pass a copy of BabyKeys along to your friends for evaluation. Please encourage them to register their copy if they find that they can use it. All registered users will receive a copy of the latest version of the BabyKeys system. Please see "Benefits of Registration" (page 9) for more information on registering BabyKeys.

Trademarks: CompuServe is the registered trademark of CompuServe Incorporated.

Logitech Mouse is the registered trademark of Logitech, Inc.

Mouse Systems Mouse is the registered trademark of Mouse Systems, Inc.

MS-DOS, Microsoft Mouse, Windows 3.1 and Windows95 are the registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation.

Novell DOS is the registered trademark of Novell, Inc.

PC-DOS and IBM are the registered trademarks of International Business Machines, Inc.

Acknowledgements: Special thanks to these members of my family who were instrumental in the creation of BabyKeys for Windows:

Alex Blenman My six month old son who was the youngest beta tester of this program.

Amelia Blenman My daughter who beta tested the program and provided many of the background voices.

Alice Blenman My wife whose patience and support made this product possible. She was also used as both a beta tester and proofreader.

Produced in the United States

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	
BABYKEYS - BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW	Page 1
SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS	Page 1
COMPATIBILITY	Page 2
INSTALLATION	Page 4
GETTING TECHNICAL SUPPORT	Page 5
USING BABYKEYS	
STARTING BABYKEYS	Page 7
SETTING UP PREFERENCES	Page 7
QUITTING BABYKEYS	Page 7
BABYKEYS' FEATURES	Page 8
HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM BABYKEYS	Page 8
HOW TO USE THE HELP FEATURE	Page 9
BENEFITS OF REGISTRATION	Page 9
REGISTRATION FORM	Page 11
APPENDIX A - GLOSSARY	Page 12
APPENDIX B - TROUBLESHOOTING	Page 14

INTRODUCTION

BABYKEYS - BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

BabyKeys was designed to satisfy the curiosity of children ages six months through three years. Children in this age grouping have an attraction for colors and music. Additionally, they are also curious about your computer's keyboard and monitor.

BabyKeys satisfies this curiosity by responding to what your child does to the computer keyboard or mouse. When your child presses the buttons on one of these devices, BabyKeys responds with attractive graphics, pictures, music and audio descriptions of the pictures displayed.

Back in 1990, when Amelia (my daughter) was almost six months old, I observed her interest in my computer. So I decided to design a computer program just for her. She became my beta tester as the program was being designed. A short time later, BabyKeys was born. BabyKeys has now evolved into a Windows based application with multimedia features such as speech, music as well as bitmap graphics.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

BabyKeys requires the following hardware and software:

- o A 100% IBM compatible 386DX or higher computer.
- o 4MB of memory for Windows 3.1 or 8MB for Windows95. More memory is recommended for better performance.
- o A hard disk with at least 7MB of available space free for program and data files. Up to 12MB of disk space may be needed during the installation process.
- o An optional printer for printing the user manual.
- o A 640 by 480 display monitor and a VGA card. We recommend a high resolution monitor (1024 by 768 or better) with at least an SVGA card.
- o An internal PC speaker. We recommend a sound card with external speakers to get the most out of this program.
- o Microsoft, Mouse Systems, Logitech or compatible mouse.

BabyKeys User's Guide

- o Windows 3.1 with a Windows 3.1 compatible version of DOS₂ or Windows95.

COMPATIBILITY

Users who have a sound card capable of playing WAV files should have no trouble using this program₃. However, users relying on the Microsoft SPEAKER.DRV device driver may experience inconsistent results when running this program. If you experience difficulties when using SPEAKER.DRV, you may want to do the following:

If you are using Windows 3.1 and would like to remove this device driver,

1. Double click on the **Control Panel** icon under the "Main" group.
2. Double click on the **Drivers** icon.
3. Under the "Installed Drivers" list, click on **Sound Driver for PC-Speaker** (Speaker.drv).
4. Click on the **Remove** button.
5. A dialog box will appear asking you to restart Windows. To have the removal take effect immediately, choose the **Restart Now** button.

If you are using Windows95,

1. Double click on the **My Computer** icon.
2. Double on **Control Panel**.
3. Double click on **Multimedia**.
4. Click on the **Advanced** tab.
5. Double click on **Audio Devices**.
6. Click on **Audio for Sound Driver For PC-Speaker** then click on **[Properties]**.
7. If you would like to disable the PC-Speaker

- 2 PC/MS-DOS versions starting from 3.1 or Novell DOS 7.x.
- 3 To know if your sound card can play WAV files, try using the Media Player utility found in the Accessories group (See Troubleshooting on page 14 for more information).

BabyKeys
User's Guide

driver, then:

- (i) Click on the **Do not use audio features of this device** option.
- (ii) Click on the **[OK]** button.
- (iii) The message "These changes may not take effect until you restart Windows" will be displayed.
- (iv) Click on the **[OK]** button.

If you would like to remove the PC-Speaker driver, then:

- (i) Click on the **[Remove]** button.
 - (ii) The dialog message "If you remove this driver, you will lose the Audio features it provides." followed by the question "Are you sure you want to remove this driver?".
 - (iii) To confirm that you want to remove this driver, click on the **[Yes]** button.
 - (iv) Click on the **[OK]** button.
 - (v) The message "These changes may not take effect until you restart Windows" will be displayed.
 - (vi) Click on the **[OK]** button.
 - (vii) Click on the next **[OK]** button.
8. Click on the **[Start]** button of the Task Bar.
 9. Click the **Restart the computer?** option and then click on the **[Yes]** button.

Please refer to "Troubleshooting" on page 14 for more information. If you disable your sound card or SPEAKER.DRV from Windows, make sure to select the **Speaker** option from the BabyKeys "Preferences" screen.

4 If you experience difficulties in finding or removing your device drivers, contact Microsoft or its authorized support center for more assistance.

BabyKeys
User's Guide

INSTALLATION

To install BabyKeys on your computer, follow these steps:

1. To install BabyKeys from the Windows Program Manager, click on the **File** menu and select **Run**. At the file name prompt, type **A:\setup.exe** (or **B:\setup.exe** depending on your computer setup). Then click on the [**OK**] button.

To install BabyKeys from Windows95, click on the [**Start**] button on your Task Bar and select **Run**. At the file name prompt, type **A:\setup.exe** (or **B:\setup.exe** depending on your computer setup). Then click on the [**OK**] button.

2. After a moment the startup screen will appear. You will be prompted with the [**OK**] and [**Cancel**] buttons. Click on the [**OK**] button to continue.
3. Next, a dialog will appear with the prompt "Please enter the drive and directory where you wish BabyKeys to be installed". If "C:\babykeys" is not the path that you would like to have BabyKeys installed, you can change it now. Click on the [**OK**] button to continue.
4. You will be prompted to "Please insert disk 2". Place the disk labelled "2" in the floppy drive. Click on the [**OK**] button to continue. Respond to the prompts for disk 3 and disk 4, as they appear, in the same manner.
5. When the installation process is completed, you will be presented with the "TECHNICAL SUPPORT" screen. Click on the [**OK**] button to continue.
6. The final screen you will see is the "Readme.txt" file displayed in the Notepad program. Please read the

- 5 NOTE: Throughout this manual, menu titles, options and messages from the computer will be "QUOTED". Any dialog button, key press or response that the user is expected to provide, will be **BOLDED** or enclosed in [**Braces**]. Also, any references to "click" or "clicking" refers to pressing the left button on your mouse.

BabyKeys User's Guide

instructions in this file before you continue.

Once completed, the installation program will create all necessary icons and program groups for you⁶.

GETTING TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you are experiencing problems with BabyKeys, first try using this manual and the on-line Help facility (see "How to use the Help Feature" on page 9). If you are still unable to resolve your problem, you can try contacting Multi-Computing in one of the following ways:

Telephone: 908-241-8071 (REGISTERED USERS ONLY).
SORRY, NO CALLS RETURNED OUTSIDE
THE CONTINENTAL US!⁷

Email: CompuServe 74446,1627
Internet 74446.1627@compuserve.com

Regular Mail: Multi-Computing
1051 Stuyvesant Avenue
Suite 347
Union, NJ 07083

You can also contact us via our web page at
http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Multi_Computing.

When contacting us, please provide the following information:

1. The brand and model of your computer.

⁶ In the case of Windows95, a short cut for BabyKeys will be added to the "Programs" list of the Task Bar.

⁷ Telephone support is available only to registered users. Users contemplating registration can either write us or email us for technical assistance.

BabyKeys
User's Guide

2. The amount of memory (RAM) available on your computer⁸.
3. The amount of free space on your hard disk.
4. The version of DOS, Windows or other operating system that you are using.
5. A brief description of the problem including any error messages.

8 Users of MS-DOS 6.X and Windows 3.1 can use the MSD utility to gather this information.

USING BABYKEYS

STARTING BABYKEYS

To get your child started with BabyKeys:

- Windows 3.1 users: Double click on the BabyKeys icon found in the "BabyKeys" program group.
- Windows95 users: Click on the **[Start]** button on the Task Bar and select **Programs**. Move to **BabyKeys** and click on the BabyKeys icon.

After BabyKeys has started, let your child sit comfortably in front of the computer. Your child can then use the keyboard or mouse to control the program. You may want to demonstrate the use of this program to your child before they get started. Although, there is a very good chance that your child will know what to do with the keyboard right away!

SETTING UP PREFERENCES

When BabyKeys starts for the first time, the program checks to see what sound devices are available on your computer. If it detects a Sound Card, it will use it as the default sound device. Otherwise, the Speaker is selected as the default sound device. If you would like to override the default settings, you can choose either **[Speaker]** or **[Sound Card]** as your preferred sound device. To do this, choose **Preferences** from the **File** menu. After making your selection, remember to save it by clicking the **[OK]** button.

QUITTING BABYKEYS

Under Windows 3.1 and Windows95, you have a number of ways to quit BabyKeys. The most obvious way is to select **Exit** from the **File** menu. If you are using Windows 3.1, you can also click on the **[-]** button (found in the upper left-hand corner of the screen) and then select **Close**. From Windows95, you can click on the **[X]** button (found in the upper right-hand corner of the screen).

When you attempt to quit BabyKeys, you will get the message "Do you really want to quit BabyKeys?". Click on the **[Yes]** button to confirm your choice.

BabyKeys User's Guide

BABYKEYS' FEATURES

BabyKeys is a Windows based children's game that works with both Windows 3.1 and Windows95. It is loaded with features to keep your child entertained. Here are some of these features:

- o BabyKeys comes loaded with a library of Bitmap and Windows Meta Files. These files display cartoon and photographic images that are fun to view.
- o It is also loaded with a library of multimedia WAV files. These WAV files provide BabyKeys with speech, special effects and musical entertainment.
- o Full stereo music and speech are supported.
- o BabyKeys can work with either a sound card or the PC Speaker.
- o It will respond to all keys on your keyboard.
- o Responds to the left, right and center mouse buttons as well as mouse movements.
- o The registered version of BabyKeys also works with a joystick.

HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM BABYKEYS

For both you and your child to gain the most from "Baby Keys" please consider the following suggestions:

- 1) Always be present when your child is playing this game. You would not want to return to your computer and find grape juice spilled all over your keyboard!
- 2) Make sure your child sits at least 18 inches away from the computer screen. Also make sure that the keyboard is comfortably within your child's reach.
- 3) If your child is beginning to talk, you may want to repeat out loud the names of images that appear on the screen. Later, when that image appears again, ask your child to guess the name of the image. However, do not discourage them if they forget the image's name.

BabyKeys User's Guide

- 4) Try to avoid letting your child play with this game for more than 10 minutes at a time. As everybody knows, a child's attention span is limited. Observe your child when they play with BabyKeys. If they appear to be losing interest during a play session, move on to something else.
- 5) Try to have a variety of other computer games available for your child. This way your child is not limited to playing the same game all the time.

Introducing your child to computers at an early age, will help to make them comfortable with new technology as it emerges. It will also give them a learning advantage when they start school.

HOW TO USE THE HELP FEATURE

The help system in BabyKeys is context sensitive. This means that when you request help, you will be provided with help that matches the current screen or operation. However, BabyKeys was designed to react to how your child uses the keyboard. As a result, the [F1] key has been disabled on the main screen¹⁰. The main screen is the screen that displays the bitmap pictures. To get Help from the main screen, just click on the **Help** menu option then select **Contents**.

BENEFITS OF REGISTRATION

You are free to evaluate BabyKeys for up to 14 days from the date of first use. After this time, if you continue to use BabyKeys, you are expected to register and pay for it. When you register your copy of BabyKeys, you will receive the Deluxe version of this product. Your registration provides the following features and benefits:

- o Twice as many multi-media WAV sounds and pictures in the Deluxe version.
- o The Deluxe version is also equipped to work with a joystick.

10 The [F1] key still works on the "Preferences" and "About" screens.

BabyKeys
User's Guide

- o No shareware registration messages or reminders.
- o First time registrants of Multi-Computing products will be eligible for a \$2.00 discount. This discount can be used towards additional product purchases or upgrades of any Multi-Computing product.
- o Registered users can receive free telephone based technical support for up to 90 days from the first call.
- o Registered users will also receive notification of product upgrades and new product releases.

If you choose not to register BabyKeys after the evaluation period, you should remove it from your computer (see the "Uninstall" icon for removing BabyKeys).

BabyKeys
User's Guide

REGISTRATION FORM BabyKeys for Windows (Version 1.0.1)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Tel.#: (____) ____-_____

SHIP TO...

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Diskette Size

(Please Circle One): 3 1/2 inch high density (1.44 MB)

3 1/2 inch double density (720 K)

Qty: _____ at \$19.95 each Sub Total: _____

NJ Residents add 6% Sales Tax: _____

Note: Shipping Cost:

US=\$FREE, Can & Mex=\$3, Other Int=\$7 _____

Total: _____

Make check payable in US currency to: Multi-Computing
1051 Stuyvesant Ave.
Suite 347
Union, NJ 07083

Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. Sorry, no COD orders.

APPENDIX A - GLOSSARY

The following list attempts to explain some buzz words used in this manual:

ARCHIVAL	Having to do with an archive (see below).
ARCHIVE	In the computer world, this word has to do with storing or backing up computer data to some form of backup media (e.g., a floppy diskette).
DECOMPILE	The process of converting computer instructions from machine language to a human readable form (source code).
DISASSEMBLE	The process of converting computer instructions from machine language to a symbolic code called assembly language.
ICON	In the Microsoft Windows environment an icon is a small rectangular picture image that usually represents a computer program.
JOYSTICK	A computer input tool similar to a mouse pointing device. Joysticks are used primarily in video games.
KEYSTROKE	A keystroke represents the pressing of a key or a combination of keys on the computer keyboard.
MAXIMIZE	This is a way to expand a screen so that it fully occupies the width and height of your computer monitor (See MINIMIZE below).
MINIMIZE	This operation reduces the active window or program to a small icon. While minimized, the application is either placed in suspension or runs in the background.
MOUSE	A pointing device that allows you to interact with your computer in a manner similar to your keyboard. A mouse usually consists of a palm size device with a rolling ball at the bottom. It will normally have two or more buttons for making menu

BabyKeys
User's Guide

selections and changing object properties.

OBJECT CODE The computer readable instructions produced by a compiler or special assembler.

SOFTWARE A collection of computer instructions that direct the computer in performing a specific task. The Paintbrush program found in Microsoft Windows, is an example of software.

SOUND DEVICE A computer component used for generating sound. This can be either the computer speaker or a sound card combined with external speakers. The latter is capable of producing a wider variety of sounds.

SPEAKER An internal sound device found in most IBM compatible personal computers.

SVGA Super Video Graphics Array. This is a computer display card that allows the computer to display images in color. It is usually found in newer computers.

VGA Video Graphics Array. This is a computer display card similar to the SVGA card above.

APPENDIX B - TROUBLESHOOTING

"53:File not found:..." Message

- PROBLEM: You are most likely missing a BMP, WAV or WMF file.
- SOLUTION: Re-install BabyKeys.

Bitmap images are Blurred

- PROBLEM: The images displayed by BabyKeys are blurred or hard to recognize.
- SOLUTION: The most likely cause of this is a VGA or SVGA card set to a 16-color display mode. This may also occur if your video card or video mode is set to a resolution too low to correctly display these images. If you are using a video card that supports multiple modes, you may want to change to a higher resolution mode. You can do this by selecting "Windows Setup" (Windows 3.1) or "Control Panel" (Windows95). Also, if your current video mode in Windows is set to display only 16 colors at a time, you may want to change this to at least 256 colors. If none of these suggestions help, your video card or monitor may be incapable of displaying at a resolution high enough for BabyKeys11.

Cannot hear Speech or Music

- PROBLEM: You don't hear any of the BabyKeys special effects, speech or musical melodies.
- SOLUTION: This can happen for any of the following reasons:
1. You don't have a sound card or external speakers installed in your computer. If this is the case, choose "Preferences" from the BabyKeys menu and select the "Speaker" option.
 2. Your external speakers may be

11 Although a VGA card with a 640 x 480 resolution is supported by BabyKeys, it is recommended that you use at least a SVGA card.

BabyKeys User's Guide

- disconnected or turned off. Please check your connection and make sure your speakers are turned on.
3. You are using the SPEAKER.DRV device driver. Please see the "Compatibility" section on page 2 for more information.
 4. Your sound card may not be capable of playing WAV files¹².

Please see "Speaker not working" and "Sound Card not working" below for additional tips.

"File not found:..." Message

PROBLEM: BabyKeys is missing a DLL, OCX or VBX file.

SOLUTION: Re-install BabyKeys.

"illegal operation" Message

PROBLEM: A program operation caused Windows to generate a General Protection Fault error.

SOLUTION: This usually happens if the file "Babykeys.ini" is missing. Simply start BabyKeys again. If this problem persists, contact Multi-Computing for assistance.

"illegal instruction" Message

See "illegal operation" above.

"Insufficient memory or resources..." Message

PROBLEM: Windows did not have enough memory to run BabyKeys.

SOLUTION: You may have too many applications open at once. This error may also occur if you have less than the minimum amount of required memory (refer to "System Requirements" on page 1). First try closing other open applications then restart BabyKeys. If this does not resolve the problem, you may need to add more memory to your computer.

¹² Owners of AdLib sound cards may need to get a special WAV driver from their vendor or manufacturer.

BabyKeys
User's Guide

"invalid instruction" Message

See "illegal operation" above.

Menu appears when your child uses the keyboard

PROBLEM: The "File" or "Help" menu appears when your child is using BabyKeys.

SOLUTION: This is not really an error. Under Windows, menus are invoked when you press the **[Alt]** key followed by the short cut key for the menu options listed. So for example, if you pressed the **[Alt]** key followed by the letter "f", the "File" menu will appear".

To get out of the menu, press the **[Esc]** key twice to return to the regular BabyKeys screen.

PC Speaker not working

PROBLEM: No sound is generated when BabyKeys is in use.

SOLUTION: There are several possible cause for this condition:

1. BabyKeys might be configured for use with a sound card. You can determine this by looking at the selections made in the "Preferences" screen. If "Sound Card" is selected, change the selection to "Speaker".
2. Your speaker is currently configured to work with the Microsoft SPEAKER.DRV driver. This driver does not always work reliably with BabyKeys. To remove this driver from Windows or Windows95, see "Compatibility" on page 2.
3. Your computer does not have a speaker or your speaker might be defective. If you suspect the latter possibility, see your computer dealer or authorized service center for assistance.

"Out of memory" Message

See "Insufficient memory or resources..." above.

BabyKeys
User's Guide

Sound Card not working

PROBLEM: Your computer has a sound card, but you do not hear anything when BabyKeys is run.

SOLUTION: There are several reasons why this might happen:

1. Your external speakers might be turned off.
2. The cable from your sound card to your external speakers might be disconnected.
3. You might have a driver that conflicts with your sound card. If you suspect this possibility, see your computer dealer or authorized service center for assistance.
4. Your sound card has not been configured or is missing a device driver. If this is the case and you need technical help, contact your sound card vendor. If you are using Windows95, you can use the "Add New Hardware" expert found in the "Control Panel" to setup the correct driver for your hardware.
5. Your sound card is either defective or isn't capable of playing WAV files. If this is the case, contact your sound card vendor for assistance.