

**vtech**<sup>®</sup>

User's Manual

# SkillStarter™ Handheld



**Dear Parent,**

*At VTech® we know that kids have a lot to juggle these days- busy school schedules, sports, extracurricular activities, and of course, homework. That's why we created the **XL Series™** - an innovative line of portable learning companions designed to fit the always on-the-go lifestyle of your school-aged child.*

*The **XL Series™** is a powerful system of learning tools that helps give your child the much-needed competitive edge in school through fun, age appropriate activities - and helps them learn essential skills. Created with portability in mind, **XL Series** products have a sleek, compact design in both handheld and notebook formats that allow kids to bring the learning fun anywhere, anytime. Plus, all the **XL Series** products are easily connectable to a PC and the Internet. Using the **vPort™** accessory, kids can wirelessly access reference tools or download new educational activity sets for their **XL Series** products.*

*At VTech®, we are committed to creating fun learning toys that foster a child's intellectual and social development. We thank you for trusting VTech® with the important job of helping your child succeed in school!*

*Sincerely,*

*Your Friends at VTech®*

*To learn more about XL Series™ and other VTech® toys, visit [www.vtechkids.com](http://www.vtechkids.com)*

**SkillStarter™ Handheld**

*Thank you for purchasing the VTech® SkillStarter™ Handheld learning toy. The SkillStarter™ Handheld is a fun-filled learning companion for children aged 5-7 who are just beginning school, and enjoy playing and learning no matter where they go!*

*SkillStarter™ products focus on teaching core reading and math skills, with additional content related to practical skills such as telling time.*

*There are 22 learning activities that are presented in an engaging game-like environment. The SkillStarter™ Handheld gives kids a competitive edge for school success and builds confidence - while providing hours of rewarding fun!*

*Get connected to school success. Excel with the XL Series™!*

*We at VTech® are committed to providing the best possible products to entertain and educate your child. Should you have any questions or concerns, please call our Consumer Services Department at 1-800-521-2010 in the US or 1-800-267-7377 in Canada.*

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# INTRODUCTION

Thank you for buying the **VTech® SkillStarter™ Handheld!** We at **VTech®** are committed to providing the best possible products to entertain and educate your child. Should you have any questions or concerns, please call our Consumer Services Department at 1-800-521-2010 in the U.S. or 1-800-267-7377 in Canada.

The **SkillStarter™ Handheld** is an electronic learning aid that challenges young minds with 22 activities in categories as diverse as word, math and logic games. It also includes school tools like a calculator and unit converter. Release the handheld and tap its screen with the stylus pen to start!



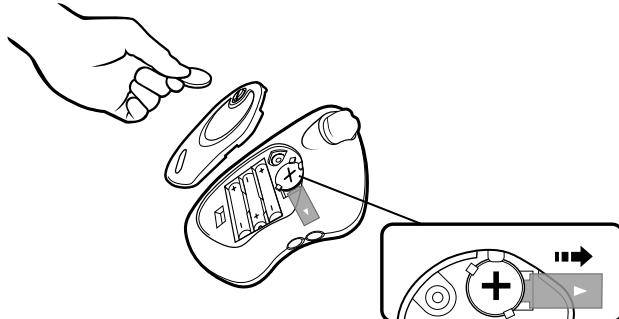
## Items included in this package:

**SkillStarter™ Handheld Keyboard Docking**

**SkillStarter™ Handheld Handheld**

User's Manual

# GETTING STARTED



Locate on the back of your SkillStarter™ Handheld. Remove the red tab so the information you input will be saved.

## POWER SOURCE

SkillStarter™ Handheld operates on 3 "AAA" size batteries (UM-4 or LR03) or a VTech® 9V adaptor (sold separately).

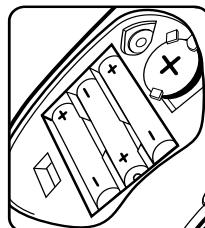
## CONNECTING THE PRINTER

1. Make sure both the **SkillStarter™ Handheld** and the **VTech® VT-41** printer (sold separately) are turned **OFF**.
2. Locate the printer port on the back of the keyboard docking.
3. Connect the printer plug to the printer port.
4. Turn on **SkillStarter™ Handheld** and the printer.

**NOTE:** Only the **VTech® VT-41** printer is compatible with **SkillStarter™ Handheld**.

## BATTERY INSTALLATION

1. Make sure the **SkillStarter™ Handheld** is **OFF**.
  2. Open the battery cover on the back of the handheld.
  3. Insert 3 new "AAA" batteries into the battery compartment as illustrated.
- Rechargeable batteries are not recommended.**
4. Close the battery cover and tighten the screw to secure the battery cover.



**NOTE:** The use of new, alkaline batteries is recommended for maximum performance.

### **IMPORTANT!!!**

When replacing the 3 "AAA" size batteries, make sure the backup battery is in place or the **SkillStarter™ Handheld** is plugged into the wall outlet with a 9V adaptor. Otherwise, you will lose all the information stored in certain applications.

### **Standard for battery toys**

- Do not try to recharge non-rechargeable batteries;
- Rechargeable batteries are to be removed from the toy before being charged;
- Rechargeable batteries are only to be charged under adult supervision;
- Do not mix different types of batteries; Do not mix new and used batteries;
- Only use batteries of the recommended or equivalent type;
- Always insert batteries properly matching the plus (+) and minus (-) signs;
- Batteries that have run out of energy must be removed from the toy;
- Do not short circuit the supply terminals;
- Do not use more batteries than recommended;
- Remove batteries from toy if it will not be used for an extended period of time.

**NOTE:** If the unit suddenly stops working or the sound becomes weak, turn the unit **OFF** for 15 seconds, then turn it back **ON**. If the problem persists, it may be caused by weak batteries. Please install a new set of batteries and try again.

**DC ADAPTOR** 

Use **VTech®** or any standard adaptor complying with EN61558 DC 9V ■■■ 300mA

 DC center-positive adaptor.

### **Connection:**

1. Make sure the unit is **OFF**.
2. Locate the adaptor jack on the back of the keyboard docking.
3. Insert the adaptor plug into the unit's adaptor jack.
4. Plug the adaptor into a wall outlet.
5. Turn the unit **ON**.

**NOTE:** If the unit suddenly stops working or the sound seems weak, it may be the result of the adaptor connection. Turn the unit **OFF** and unplug the

adaptor for 15 seconds. Next, plug the adaptor back in and turn the unit **ON**. If the problem persists, it may be the result of the adaptor's wiring or the unit.

**Do not leave the adaptor plugged in for long periods of time if the unit is not in use.**

### **Standard for adaptor toys**

- The toy is not intended for use by children under 3 years old;
- Only use the recommended adaptor with the toy;
- The adaptor is not a toy;
- Never clean a plugged-in toy with liquid;
- Never use more than 1 adaptor;
- Do not leave plugged-in for extended periods of time.

### **NOTICE TO PARENTS**

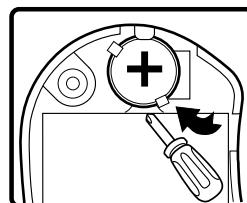
Regularly examine the adaptor, checking for damage to the cord, plug, transformer or other parts. Do not use the adaptor if there is any damage to it.

## **BACKUP BATTERY INSTALLATION**

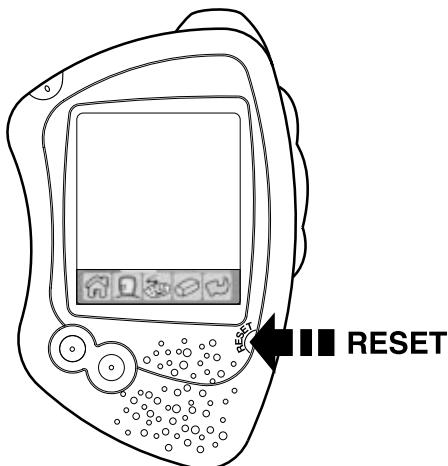
**SkillStarter™ Handheld** comes with a backup battery already installed. Before using the unit, remove the protective strip from the backup battery by pulling on the plastic tab. To avoid damage to the unit from leaky batteries, replace the backup battery at least once a year.

### **To replace the backup battery:**

1. Make sure the unit is **OFF**.
2. Locate the battery cover on the back of the handheld and open it.
3. Remove the old backup battery with a screwdriver.
4. Insert 1 CR2032 battery as illustrated.
5. Close the battery cover and tighten the screw to secure the battery cover.



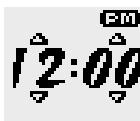
## RESETTING HANDHELD



## If your Handheld stops working or doesn't turn on:

1. Check your batteries. Make sure the batteries are fresh and installed properly.
2. Insert the tip of a paper clip (or a similar object without a sharp tip) into the RESET hole (as illustrated).
3. If you are still having problems, visit our website at [www.vtechkids.com](http://www.vtechkids.com) for troubleshooting tips.

## SETTING THE TIME



### To set the time:

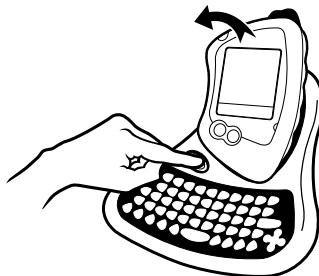
1. Press **Clock** (⌚) button to activate clock, press the button again or tap the screen to set the time.
2. Tap icon ☰ or ☱ to set the hours and minutes.
3. Tap icon ☰ AM or ☱ PM to switch the time to am or pm.
4. When you have finished setting the time, tap **Enter**.

## POWERING THE HANDHELD ON AND OFF

To turn the handheld **ON**, press and hold the **Power** button for 1 second or longer. To turn the handheld **OFF**, press the **Power** button again.

## DETACHING THE HANDHELD FROM THE KEYBOARD DOCKING

Detach the handheld from the keyboard docking as shown below:

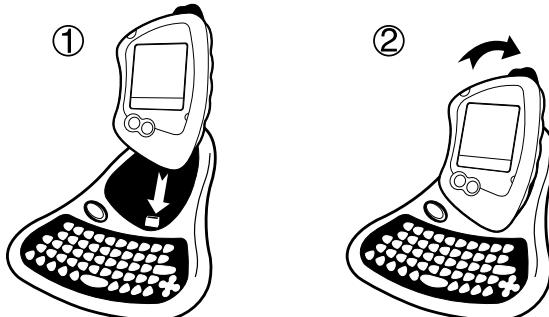


**Release Button** 

Press this button to release your handheld from the keyboard docking.

## ATTACHING THE HANDHELD TO THE KEYBOARD DOCKING

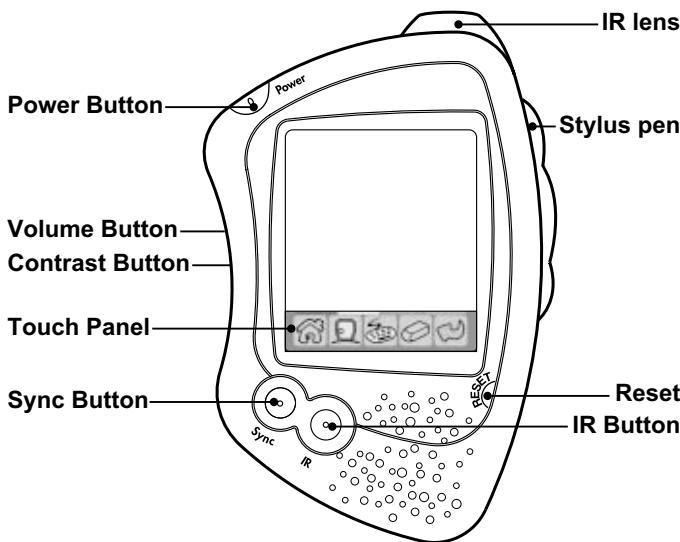
Attach the handheld to the keyboard docking as shown below:



## AUTOMATIC SHUT-OFF FEATURE

To save power, the **SkillStarter™ Handheld** automatically shuts down if it doesn't receive any input after several minutes. Press the **Power** button to wake your unit. We recommend that you turn off the unit when finished playing. Remove the batteries and unplug the adaptor if your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** will not be used for an extended period of time.

## YOUR SKILLSTARTER™ HANDHELD



## THE HANDHELD BUTTONS

### Power Button

Press and hold the button for about a second to turn the handheld **ON**. Press it again to turn the handheld **OFF**.

### Volume Control Button



Press the **Volume** button to change the sound level of the speaker.

Continuous pressing of this button can also adjust the volume. After pressing **Volume**, a control panel will appear on the screen. Use the stylus pen to select the level. You can also turn the background music **ON**  or **OFF** .

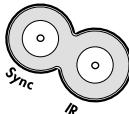


### Contrast Control Button

Press the **Contrast** button to change the darkness/lightness of the screen. Continuous pressing of this button can also adjust the contrast. After pressing **Contrast**, a control panel will appear. Use the stylus pen to select the desired level.



### Sync/IR Button



Press the **Sync** button to Sync with your PC.

Press the **IR** button to start IR Communication between two **VTech® XL Series™** units.

## THE TOUCH PANEL



There are five icons on the touch panel. To use these icons, tap on them with the stylus pen.

### Home Icon

Tap this icon to return to the Main Menu at any time.

### Exit Icon

Tap this icon to exit the current screen and go back to the previous screen.

### Keyboard Icon

Tap this icon to use the On-Screen Keyboard in some activities. Use the On-Screen Keyboard just like a real keyboard!

### To Use the On-Screen Keyboard:

1. Tap the  icon to display the On-Screen Keyboard.
2. Tap letters, numbers or symbols icons with the stylus pen to enter data.
3. To type capital letters, tap the  icon. To go back to lowercase letters, tap the  icon.
4. To enter numbers or symbols, tap the  icon. To use more advanced symbols, tap  icon. To go back to entering letters, tap the  icon or the  icon.
5. To enter a space, tap the  icon.

### Erase Icon



Tap this icon to erase the letters or numbers in an answer or entry before you press **Enter**.

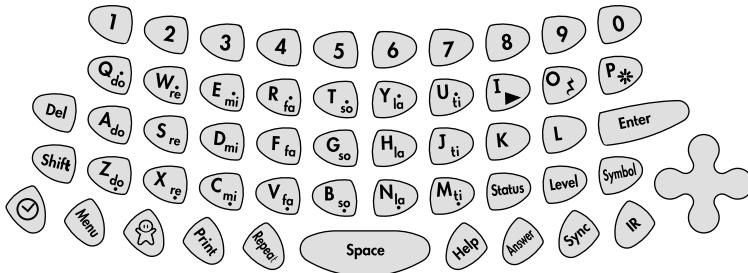
### Enter Icon



Tap this icon to confirm a selection or an answer.

## DESCRIPTIONS OF KEYBOARD

The **VTech® SkillStarter™ Handheld** has a full alphanumeric keyboard with 56 keys including:



### Function keys:

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**Del** Press this key to erase characters to the right of the cursor.

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**Shift** Press this key to capitalize letters.

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<b>Clock</b>		Press this key to view the clock, press it again or tap the screen to set the time.
<b>Menu</b>		Press this key to return to the Main Menu at any time.
<b>Creation Station</b>		Press this key to go to the Creation Station activity at any time.
<b>Print</b>		Press this key to print the screen. <b>Note:</b> The <b>SkillStarter™ Handheld</b> is only compatible with <b>VTech®'s VT-41</b> printer.
<b>Repeat</b>		Press this key to repeat the instruction or the question.
<b>Space</b>		When typing, use this key to insert a space between words or numbers.
<b>Help</b>		Press this key to get helpful hints about the activities you're playing.
<b>Answer</b>		Press this key to find the correct answer to a question. You will not receive points if this key is pressed.
<b>Sync</b>		Press this key to Synchronize your <b>SkillStarter™ Handheld</b> with your PC.
<b>IR</b>		Press this key to start IR Communication between your unit and another <b>VTech® XL Series™ Unit</b> .
<b>Direction</b>		Press these keys to move the cursor up, down, left or right.
<b>Status</b>		Press this key to view your status- level, score and chance while playing a particular activity.
<b>Level</b>		Press this key to select an activity's level of difficulty from easy to medium to hard.
<b>Symbol</b>		Press this key to access the symbol menu. Use the stylus to select and input a symbol.
<b>Enter</b>		Press this key after choosing your answer to confirm your selection.

## SYNC

"Syncing" is the process of connecting your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** to your computer. It exchanges and updates information between your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** and your personal computer. Changes you make on your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** or your PC will appear in both places after the Sync process. For example, if you changed records in your **SkillStarter™ Handheld**,

after Sync, the changes will be updated on the related files in your computer. Similarly, if there are files that have been changed in your computer, Sync will update the related files in your **SkillStarter™ Handheld**.

To enhance your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** with this Sync function, an accessory **VTech® vPort™** (sold separately) is needed. The **vPort™** is an electronic device, which offers Infrared wireless communication between your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** (or any selected **VTech®** learning unit) and your PC. In the **vPort™** package, there is a CD-ROM with Desktop Software inside. To perform a Sync, the **SkillStarter™ Handheld** Desktop Software must be installed.

With everything ready, the following applications can be synchronized during a Sync session.

Dictionary                  Phone Book

Additionally, you can download new activities or data from our **VTech®** website ([www.vport.com](http://www.vport.com)) to your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** with the Desktop Software (internet access is required).

### **VTech® vPort™**

To purchase our **VTech® vPort™**, please directly contact our Customer Service Department at 1-800-521-2010 in the U.S. or 1-800-267-7377 in Canada.

For details on how to install **vPort™**, please refer to the **VTech® vPort™** user manual.

For additional information about using the **VTech®** Desktop Software, open the **VTech®** Desktop Software and then choose Desktop Help from the **Help** menu.

To start the **VTech®** Desktop Software, click Start, then Applications, then select **SkillStarter™ Handheld (US)**.

## **ADD A NEW USER ACCOUNT IN DESKTOP SOFTWARE**

**VTech®** Desktop Software allows multiple users to share the same Desktop Software. **VTech®** Desktop Software does this by managing different User Accounts.

**Each User Account must have a unique name. To create a User Name:**

1. Make sure you have been logged out from any account by clicking the logout button on the left.
2. Click the New button on the bottom.
3. Complete the User Information form.
4. Enter your User Name.
5. If you want to protect your User Account with a password, click the option box to set Security On.
6. Then, enter your password into the password box.

7. And enter you password again to confirm.
8. Personal Folder is where your uploaded files are saved. Click the Set Personal Folder icon to change your folder, if necessary. Click OK to save and back to the User Information form screen.
9. Click OK to save your User Account information or click Cancel to quit without saving.

## **SYNCING YOUR SKILLSTARTER™ HANDHELD WITH YOUR COMPUTER**

1. Make sure your **vPort™** is connected properly to your PC.
2. Make sure the IR Lens of **vPort™** and **SkillStarter™ Handheld** are in an effective position.
3. Make sure the **VTech® Desktop Software** is installed on your computer.
4. Make sure the **VTech® vPort Manager** is installed and running on your computer.
5. Press the **Sync** button on your **SkillStarter™ Handheld**.

## **ADDING NEW ACTIVITIES INTO YOUR SKILLSTARTER™ HANDHELD**

Visit [www.vport.com](http://www.vport.com) frequently so you'll be up-to-date with the new learning activities and games created for your **SkillStarter™ Handheld**. While you're in the **VTech® Desktop Software**, you can click on the **vPort** icon to automatically go to our website. There you can download any new information into your **SkillStarter™ Handheld**.

**Before adding new activities or content, please make sure that:**

1. Your **vPort™** is connected properly to your PC
2. The IR Lens of the **vPort™** and **SkillStarter™ Handheld** are in an effective working position. (You may refer to the following section for information)
3. The **vPort Manager** is running.
4. You have enough memory available on your **SkillStarter™ Handheld**.

**Here's what you do to load in the activities:**

1. Open the **VTech® Desktop Software** and log into your account.
2. Click the Download button in the **VTech® Desktop Software**.
3. Now you can select the activities you want to add to your **SkillStarter™ Handheld**. To select an activity or file, click on it, and then click the Add to List button. The number of activities and data you can add to **SkillStarter™ Handheld** is limited by the amount of available memory on your **SkillStarter™ Handheld**.

4. To remove an activity or file from the list, click on the item you want to remove, and then click on the Remove from List button.
5. When you have finished making your list, press the **Sync** button on your **SkillStarter™ Handheld**. This begins the Sync session.
6. To play the new activities on your **SkillStarter™ Handheld**, go to the Main Menu and select the Data Download category. Then you'll see a list of the new activities you have downloaded.

### **Deleting Activities From Your SkillStarter™ Handheld**

1. Go to the Main Menu and select the Data Download category.
2. You will see a list of the activities and data files that you have stored in your **SkillStarter™ Handheld**.
3. Tap on the activity or the data file that you want to delete, then press the **Delete** key on the keyboard.

#### **IMPORTANT!**

Only activities or data that you have added can be deleted from your **SkillStarter™ Handheld**. Built-in activities cannot be deleted.

### **Uploading Files From Your SkillStarter™ Handheld to Your Computer**

You can upload Artwork Studio pictures to your PC if you want. Press the **Sync** button on your **SkillStarter™ Handheld**, the unit will automatically upload the available files. After uploading the Artwork Studio's file, it is converted into BMP format which can be opened in many graphic applications. Therefore, you can edit and/or print the file in your PC.

All uploaded files will be saved in your personal folder. The default location of your Personal Folder is the My Documents folder in Windows. To view the current path of your Personal Folder, select Options from the menu bar and click Set Personal Folder. When uploading files, if a file with the same name already exists in your Personal Folder, a new index number will be automatically added after your filename to avoid overwriting. You can check the sync log for the filename used.

To open the uploaded file, open the application that can read BMP format. Then pick the file open function and select the file from your Personal Folder.



**SkillStarter™ Handheld** has an Infrared (IR) Lens that enables wireless communication between **XL Series** learning units. Through the IR Lens, an **XL Series** unit can play an IR game with another **XL Series** learning unit. Moreover, they can exchange information, such as Personal Profile records, Phone Book records, Artwork Studio pictures, Music Composer melodies, Creation Station characters, etc. In **SkillStarter™ Handheld**, all games that support the IR function can be found in the IR Zone.

To play a game with another **XL Series** learning unit, select a game that supports IR playing. Then select the IR 2-player mode on-screen by clicking the icon or you can press the **IR** button.

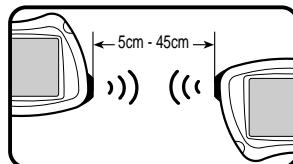
Another IR function is to send a file to another **XL Series** unit. Open the activities that support IR beaming. Then select the IR function in the tool bar or press the **IR** button. After that a screen for you to select sending or receiving file will be shown. When doing IR communication between two learning units, make sure the IR Lenses of the units are facing correctly to each other and within the working distance.

## Effective Working Position for IR Communication

Working Distance: 5cm to 45cm  
(approx. 2 inches to 1.5 feet)

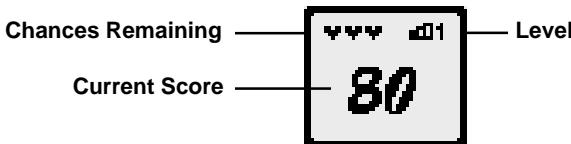
**NOTE:** The IR Lenses on **VTech® SkillStarter™ Handheld** units are flexible so you can move them into the best working position.

IR communication under direct sunlight is not recommended.



## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

### STATUS KEY



While you're playing a game or activity, pressing the **Status** key shows your: level of play; chances remaining; and current score.

## WORD FUN



### Alphabet Alley

Is alphabetizing right up your alley? In Alphabet Alley, test your knowledge of alphabetical order. When you open the activity, you'll see a letter matrix-- it's sort of like a maze made up of letters. Your goal is to find a path of letters from the entrance to the exit . The trick is that the letters must be in the correct alphabetical order. Use the stylus or arrow keys to play. Moves can be horizontal or vertical. Press **Help** to show the next right move.

### Synonyms

This activity improves your vocabulary and ability to associate similar words. Three words will swim into view. One by one they will auto open. Choose the one with the SAME meaning of the given word. Tap **Enter** to confirm your answer. Or you can type in the number 1, 2 or 3 to answer directly. Press **Help** and one incorrect answer will be eliminated.

### Word Search

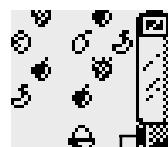
Word Search lets you stretch your spelling ability. You'll see a letter matrix--a maze made up of letters-- with 10 words hidden in it. You need to find all 10 words. Click on the letter that starts the word you want to find. A bar will highlight the letter. Click or press **Enter**. To highlight a vertical word, click the icon at the bottom of the screen. To highlight a horizontal word, click the icon at the bottom of the screen. Use the arrow keys at the bottom of the screen to scroll back and forth through the matrix. Press **Help** to see one of the hidden words. Press **Answer** to see where all words are hidden.

## MATH MANIA GAMES



### Sort and Count

In Sort and Count, you're assigned a specific number of objects to collect. Get 6 bananas. Find 4 apples. The directions are easy, but you've got to catch the falling objects in your basket while other fruit keeps falling, too. Use your stylus or the arrow keys to move your basket. When you collect the exact number of objects you're supposed to, move your basket to the right corner of the screen to the icon or press **Enter** to check out. SkillStarter™ Handheld will



check out place

then check you out and reward you if you collect the right number of objects. You can press **Help** at any time and the objects falling from the sky will get less confusing.

## Addition

It all adds up: Add the numbers and input the answer. Tap the or with your stylus to input answers. Or you can use the keyboard to type numbers directly. Tap or press **Enter** to confirm your answer. Remember, you've got to act quickly, you're on a strict time limit!

## Subtraction

Less is more: Subtraction tests more of your math skills. The game play is the same as Addition.

## Time's Up

What happens when the clock strikes 13? Time to get a new clock! In this game, you'll see a clock followed by 3 multiple choice answers showing the digital time. Choose the correct time using the stylus pen or the arrow keys. Or you can use the keyboard to type the letters A, B or C to select the right time to answer. Press **Help** to remove 1 incorrect answer.

## SCHOOL TOOLS

### Unit Converter

The Unit Converter activity helps you with basic metric and imperial unit conversion. The screen will display categories such as speed, time and weight, etc. Select a category, a starting unit of measurement, input a value, and then choose a new unit of measurement to convert.

### Calculator

This is an eight-digit calculator for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Use the stylus to click calculator buttons or use the keys on the keyboard to input a calculation. For best results, click the clear icon to clear calculator between calculations.

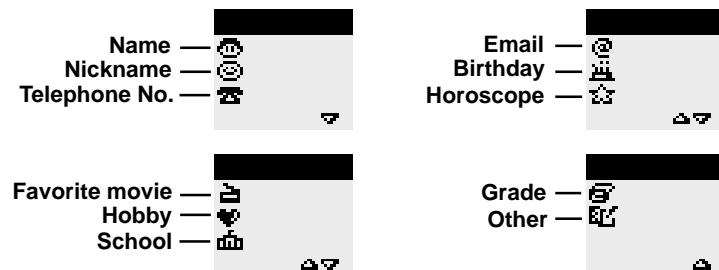
### Dictionary

You can put away the big books, **SkillStarter™ Handheld** lets you look up words using the Internet. Open the Dictionary application and select **New Search** . Input up to 3 words you want to look up. When you Sync up your **SkillStarter™**

**Handheld** with your PC, **VTech® Desktop Software** will help you to look up the information using an Internet Dictionary. Then, after the next Syncing, open the Dictionary application and select **View Result**  to check the results.

## MY FILE

### Personal Profile



Personalize your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** by inputting your data into the Personal Profile. Enter your name , nickname , telephone number , email address , birthday , favorite movie , hobby , school , grade  and any miscellaneous facts . Horoscope  will generate automatically after you input the date of birth, tap the up  icon or the down  icon on the bottom of the screen to scroll through your profile. You can also have your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** give you a nickname from its list of 20 names by pressing the .

Press the **IR** button or tap the **IR** icon in this activity and you can automatically send your basic information to a friend who also has a **VTech® XL Series™** product. Remember, your friend needs to open his/her **Phone Book** activity and press the **IR** button or tap the **IR** icon.

### Phone Book

Keep track of your friends and family in Phone Book. You can list their name , nickname , telephone number , email address  and birthday . Tap the up  icon or the down  icon at the bottom of the screen to scroll through your Phone Book. At the bottom of the screen you'll also find 3 icons that will help you organize quickly:

**New** Tap to create a new record

**Edit** Tap to edit an existing record

**Delete** Tap to delete an existing record

Press the **IR** button or tap the IR icon in this activity and you can send the phone book information to a friend who also has a **VTech® XL Series™** product. Remember, your friend needs to open his/her **Phone Book** activity and press the **IR** button or tap the IR icon.

**Note:** Your unit can store up to 30 records. You can also exchange and update information between your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** and your PC with the **VTech® vPort™** (sold separately) through Sync function.

## GAME LAB

### Fish Frenzy

You'll be fried after you play this game! Fish Frenzy tests your reaction time. Use your stylus to control the net and you'll catch fish as they jump out of the pond. The fish move even faster as you progress to harder and harder levels!

### A-Mazing

Finding your way home, not much of a challenge, right? WRONG! In this maze game you've got to get home. The trick is that you must walk all the steps in the path without going over any part of the path more than once AND without crossing any part of the path. Use the stylus to tap the path squares and move your character through the path. Or you can use the arrow keys on the keyboard.

### Nutri-Nuts

A witch uses her magic to turn a boy into a bear. Use your stylus or the arrow keys on the keyboard to help turn the bear back into a boy by selecting the right magic potions!

### Juke Box

Juke Box plays six songs! Use the stylus or press the arrow keys to select a song. Or you can type the number of the song using the keyboard. Then press **Enter** to start the melody. Tap the icon to watch a character dance along. Tap the icon to hear the song again.

To change the layout, click the icon.



## Fenced In

Good fences make good neighbors! In this game you can play against the machine or against a pal via the IR communicator. Your objective is to build a fence from one side of the board to the other. The player who builds the fence first wins. To make a move, use your stylus to tap where you want to build. Or you can use the arrow keys to move, and then tap **Enter**. You've got to act quickly: if you exceed the time limit, you miss your turn!

**Note:** Select "2 players" to play the game with a friend via IR.

## Balloon Blast

Don't be the last to burst the balloon. You can play against the machine or against a friend using the IR communicator. You're racing against the clock but be careful—whoever breaks the last balloon loses. Tap the balloon you want to break to pop it. During your timed turn, you can break anywhere from 1 to 4 balloons. When you're done with your turn, press the **Pass**  button to pass the turn to your opponent. The player who breaks the last balloon loses.

**Note:** Select "2 players" to play the game with a friend via IR.

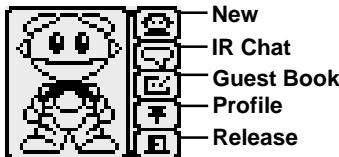
## Soccer

Just shoot the ball into the net. Sounds simple, right? No way! In this game you can play against the machine or against a friend via the IR communicator. While you shoot, your opponent guards the goal. The clock's ticking away—if you fail to kick within the time allotted, your opponent gets his/her turn. Use the stylus or arrow keys to control the ball into the goal or block the net. The player who scores the most amount of goals wins.

**Note:** Select "2 players" to play the game with a friend via IR.

## CREATION STATION

### Creation Station



Create your own creature with Creation Station. Then use IR and send it to your friend while you chat. To create a new character, tap the **New**  button, then select the components. You can choose different styles of head, eyes, nose,

mouth and body. Tap or press **Enter** to save your character. Tap the **Profile**  button to input the character profile, including name  and created date . To chat and send the image to a friend, tap the **IR Chat**  button. Start talking! Enter your words into the blank field and tap **Send** . To store a friend's character, tap the **Add**  button. To view a friend's character, tap the **Guest Book**  button. You can store up to 5 e-friends in your guest book. Do you want to meet your e-friend out of this activity? Just simply tap the icon  to release it. When you exit this activity, you can find your e-friend walking on the screen. To call it back, tap this icon again.

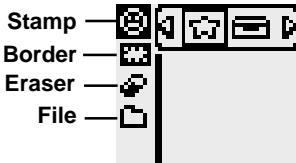
## CREATIVE STUDIO

### Music Composer

Music Composer lets you use your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** keyboard or your stylus pen to create your own song. Using the function icon at the bottom, you can create a new  song, edit  an existing one or save  changes to a song.

**Note:** Your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** can only save 1 song at a time. You can send the song to a friend who has a **VTech® XL Series™ Unit**.

### Artwork studio



A picture says a thousand words. Make your own pictures with Artwork Studio. To create a new picture, tap the **Stamp**  icon and the stamps toolbar will appear. Tap the Stamp you want to use. Now you can place it wherever you want! To select a border pattern, click on the **Border**  icon and the menu will pop up. You can tap the **Eraser**  at any time to erase your picture. Using the **File** , you can open, save or print a picture.

**Note:** Your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** can only save 1 picture at a time, you can upload the image into your PC with the **VTech® vPort™**.

## IR ZONE



There are 3 IR games **Fenced In**, **Balloon Blast** and **Soccer**. You can select one of them to play with a friend who also has a **VTech® XL Series™** product. The IR game will start when both players open the same activity.

## DATA DOWNLOAD



If you have bought a **VTech® vPort™**, new activities can be downloaded from the website via PC sync. You will get another level of data for **Word Fun** and **Math Mania Games** categories, also new songs for **Juke Box** and new sets of combinations for **Creation Station**. Press the **IR** button or tap the **IR** icon in this category and you can send your new activities to a friend who also has a **SkillStarter™ Handheld**. Remember, your friend needs to open his/her **Data Download** category and press the **IR** button or tap the **IR** icon.

## ACTIVITY SCORING AND LEVELS

This table shows all the activities you'll find in your **SkillStarter™ Handheld**, details their scoring method (if any) and the number of levels you can play.

### SKILLSTARTER™ HANDHELD ACTIVITIES:

Category	Activity Name	Scoring Code	Number of Levels
Word Fun	Alphabet Alley	A	1
	Synonyms	A	3
	Word Search	B	3
Math Mania Games	Sort and Count	A	3
	Addition	A	3
	Subtraction	A	3
School Tools	Time's Up	A	3
	Unit Converter	NONE	1
	Calculator	NONE	1
My File	Dictionary	NONE	1
	Personal Profile	NONE	1
	Phone Book	NONE	1

Game Lab	Fish Frenzy	C	3
	A-Mazing	D	3
	Nutri-nuts	NONE	1
	Juke Box	NONE	1
	Fenced In	NONE	1
	Balloon Blast	NONE	1
	Soccer	NONE	1
Creation Station	Creation Station	NONE	1
Creative Studio	Music Composer	NONE	1
	Artwork Studio	NONE	1

## Code Reference

- A Five questions per round
  - Get 20 points for the correct answers on the 1st try
  - Get 10 points for the correct answer on the 2nd try
  - Get 5 points for the correct answer on the 3rd try
- B Ten words per round
  - Each correct word is worth 10 points
  - Incorrect answers are worth NO points
- C Score is calculated as: (Fish Caught) Divided by (Number of Fish) Times 100 = SCORE
- D Get 100 points if the task is completed on the first try
  - Get 90 points if the task is completed on the second try
  - Get 80 points if the task is completed on the third try

**NOTE:** Once you get 2 rounds in a row with a perfect score of 100,  
**SkillStarter™ Handheld** will automatically increase the level of difficulty.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

1. Keep your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** clean by wiping it with a SLIGHTLY damp cloth. Never use solvents or abrasives.
2. Keep it out of direct sunlight and away from direct sources of heat.
3. Remove batteries when not using it for an extended period of time.
4. Avoid dropping it. NEVER try to dismantle it.
5. Always keep your **SkillStarter™ Handheld** away from water.

## **DISCLAIMER AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY:**

**VTech®** Electronics North America L.L.C. and its suppliers assume no responsibility for any damage or loss resulting from the use of this handbook. **VTech®** Electronics North America L.L.C. and its suppliers assume no responsibility for any loss or claims by third parties that may arise through the use of this software. **VTech®** Electronics North America L.L.C. and its suppliers assume no responsibility for any damage or loss caused by deletion of data as a result of malfunction, dead battery, or repairs. Be sure to make backup copies of important data on other media to protect against data loss.

## **STILL HAVING PROBLEMS? / TECHNICAL SUPPORT:**

If you have a problem that cannot be solved by using this manual, we encourage you to visit us online or contact our Consumer Services Department with any problems and/or suggestions that you might have. A support representative will be happy to assist you. Before requesting support, please be ready to provide or include the information below:

- The name of your product or model number. (The model number is typically located on the back or bottom of your product.)
- The actual error message or problem you are receiving.
- The actions you took right before the error message or problem.

Internet : [www.vport.com](http://www.vport.com)  
[www.vtechkids.com](http://www.vtechkids.com)

Phone: 1-800-521-2010 in the U.S. or 1-800-267-7377 in Canada

## **WARNING:**

All packing materials such as tape, plastic sheets, wire ties and tabs are not part of this toy and should be discarded for your child's safety.

## **NOTICE TO PARENT**

Regularly examine the power adaptor, checking for damage to the cord, plug, transformer or other parts. Do not use the adaptor if there is any damage to it.

## **FCC NOTICE:**

This equipment generates and uses radio frequency energy. It must be installed and used properly, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Otherwise, it may cause interference to radio and television reception. It has been type tested and found to comply within the limits for a Class B computing device in accordance with the specifications in Subpart J of Part 15 FCC Rules, which are designed to provide reasonable protection against such interference in a residential installation. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient the receiving antenna
- Relocate this product with respect to the receiver
- Move this product away from the receiver.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

The use of shielded I/O cables is required when connecting this equipment to any and all optional peripherals or host devices. Failure to do so may violate FCC rules.

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**TEL NO.:** (847) 400-3600

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