

3-21-20

Hi Katya,

I was thinking that it might be a great time and opportunity for my daughter Kyla to start learning sketch up. We have a little bedroom updating project to do, and I just thought that, when the time was right and we actually had time, that she should start learning AutoCad or SketchUp or some appropriate design software.

A few questions:

- 1.) Do you think she is too young for SketchUp?
- 2.) Any advice on where to start, good tutorials or where to begin? Suggested free of for pay tutorials or services or instructors?
- 3.) Do you think she should be on Mac or Windows or some other operating system? (I'm thinking of getting her an Ipad or Laptop).

I hope you are well and staying healthy and happy.

Hugh

3-22-20

Hi Hugh,

Nice to hear from you. I'm doing great, thanks! Everyone at SketchUp is working from home. If someone can use a mouse, they're old enough to learn SketchUp. I don't actually know how old she is, but I taught a 7 year old once and she did great. Also, I read recently that the antidote to feeling like a victim is to act like a creator. Learning how to make and design things seems like a fantastic way to resist the fear in the world right now. It's empowering - and fun! This seems like a perfect time to learn SketchUp.

As for Mac vs PC, I don't have a preference. But not a tablet. Laptop is fine. You absolutely need a mouse and a desktop operating system to run SketchUp.

Almost all of the tutorials online are for the desktop version, so I'd download SketchUp Make 2017 from here: <https://help.sketchup.com/en/downloading-older-versions>

That's a free desktop version. It will run on Windows 7, 8, and 10, but it won't run on newer Mac OS.

There are a ton of great learning resources, listed below. But for kids, I hear good things about Bonnie Roskes' materials: <http://www.3dvinci.net/Store>

I don't know what specific materials she has, though, so you're on your own as far as details. But I did see that she has a book just for the 2017 version, so that might be handy.

If you have any other questions about teaching kids SketchUp, though, you should ask on the Forum. It's awesome.

Here's some other helpful resources for learning SketchUp:

For your questions:

- \* SketchUp Forum: <http://forums.sketchup.com/>
- \* Help Center: <http://help.sketchup.com>
- \* SketchUp's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SketchUpVideo>
- \* SkillBuilders (I think these are AWESOME for hands-on, on-the-go learning):  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-bndkJaV8A5VmrwvxMw-IYgSJLlV-vjH>

The things you didn't know to ask but that you will be really glad to know:

- \* Printable Quick Reference Guide and keyboard shortcuts:  
<https://help.sketchup.com/en/article/3000081#qrc>
- \* The BEST SketchUp book ever written, and completely essential, despite the name:  
<https://www.amazon.com/SketchUp-Dummies-Computer-Tech/dp/1119336155>
- \* SketchUp Agile Modeling Guide: <https://tinyurl.com/y838o6lt>

Training:

- \* SketchUp Campus: <https://learn.sketchup.com/>
- \* Trainers for Hire: <https://www.sketchup.com/resources/trainers>
- \* 3DBasecamp: <https://3dbasecamp.sketchup.com/>

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Also, check this out: <https://www.sketchup.com/products/sketchup-for-schools>  
Conversations about it are here: <https://forums.sketchup.com/c/sketchup-for-schools/53>  
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Outstanding. Thank you so much Katya. Could I perhaps share this on the Chugach Optional parents page? Thank you for your thoughtful, complete, gold-laden response, it's huge, I am very thankful. Exactly the guidance we needed.

3-23-20

Of course! Enjoy.