Before buying a child's first 3D printer

PROJECTS, ADULT HELP & WORKSPACE

Tick each item after you have checked it. Leave unanswered items blank and resolve them before purchase.

Start with the projects

- ☐ List three things you and your child want to make: library models, original designs or school projects.
- ☐ Measure the largest design, including supports. Build volume is object space, not the printer's outside dimensions.
- ☐ Decide whether you want ready-to-print choices or time to learn design and slicing software together.

Plan the adult's role

- ☐ Read the exact manufacturer's age restrictions and supervision instructions. A beginner label does not establish child suitability.
- ☐ Name the adult responsible for installation, hot-part access, loading, part removal, clogs and maintenance.
- ☐ Check the rules for hot surfaces, moving parts, cooling and small printed pieces. Automation does not replace supervision.

Check the workspace

- ☐ Measure the whole setup: printer, moving-bed clearance, door opening, spool holders, cables and maintenance access.
- ☐ Choose a stable location with controlled access for children and pets. Follow the manufacturer's electrical and placement instructions.
- ☐ Assess material-specific emissions and appropriate ventilation or source controls. An enclosure, filter or low odor alone is not proof of safe exposure.

Choose the printing process

- ☐ Check whether the process uses filament or liquid resin. Resin adds chemical handling, washing, curing and waste-management requirements.
- ☐ Confirm the exact material, nozzle and feeder combination. Printer compatibility does not automatically mean feeder compatibility.
- ☐ Identify cleaning supplies and suitable material storage. Use the exact manual and material safety information rather than another model's settings.

Our first three projects:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Adult leading setup and supervision: _____

This is a buying aid, not a safety certification or a recommendation for unsupervised child operation. Follow the exact printer manual and material safety instructions.

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SETUP, APP REQUIREMENTS & TOTAL COST

Tick each item after you have checked it. Leave unanswered items blank and resolve them before purchase.

Understand setup and upkeep

- ☐ Confirm what must be assembled or adjusted. Ask what automatic leveling does and what first-layer work remains manual.
- ☐ Find the supported first-print, cleaning, blockage and nozzle-replacement instructions before a problem occurs.
- ☐ Check replacement-part availability and whether you can obtain the correct consumables for the supplied revision.

Check devices, accounts and files

- ☐ Confirm the app, device and network requirements, including Wi-Fi band, account creation and any supported offline method.
- ☐ Ask how your own designs become recognized print files. Confirm the slicer, exact printer profile and transfer procedure.
- ☐ Review app privacy settings and any subscriptions, AI credits or in-app purchases. Decide who controls the account and spending.

Budget beyond the printer

- ☐ Set a total starting budget including materials, required accessories, appropriate workspace controls and cleaning supplies.
- ☐ Allow for supports, test prints, failed attempts, color-change waste, replacement wear parts, electricity and adult time.
- ☐ Separate included equipment from optional upgrades. Extra filament colors do not prove automatic multicolor printing is included.

Verify the exact purchase

- ☐ Match the model, revision, ASIN and bundle contents to the documentation. Keep differently named models and generations separate.
- ☐ Confirm the actual seller's returns, warranty coverage, exclusions and after-sales support before paying.
- ☐ Write down unresolved questions and obtain answers before buying. Keep a copy of the matching manual and purchase details.

Model / revision / ASIN: _____

Total starting budget: _____ Expected recurring costs: _____

Questions to resolve: _____

_____

Sources and latest version: 3dprinterguru.com/guides/childs-first-3d-printer-checklist

Safety reference: NIOSH, Safe 3D Printing is for Everyone, Everywhere (July 29, 2024). Manufacturer-specific requirements must be checked separately. Free to print and share unchanged for personal or educational use; retain the source credit.