Educational Apps

Reviewed by

Peter Maxwell
Educational Psychologist

Contents

About This Guide

For a long time I have been interested in the use of ICT in education. Computers can be particularly helpful for children who are experiencing special educational needs as they provide much needed skills practice and reinforcement in a non-threatening way. The introduction of tablet computers has created a new way for children to interact with technology.

Many teachers and parents are keen to utilize tablet computers to reinforce learning at home and in school but are unsure what apps to use. This guide is an attempt to assist them in this process. It contains apps on a whole variety of curricular areas including: phonics, sight vocabulary and numeracy. There are also sections covering other topics that impact on children's success in school including memory, organizational skills and behavior.

The apps contained within this guide are all ones that I have tried out for myself. My thanks go to many colleagues, teachers and parents who have suggested apps to be included. This is an evolving field and I would be keen to update this guide on a regular basis. If you come across an app that you think is worthy of inclusion please contact me at petermaxwell@mail.com.

Peter Maxwell
Educational Psychologist

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I find good educational apps?

This can be tricky, not because there is a shortage of good quality apps available. Rather, it is the sheer volume of programs that can be downloaded from the App Store that makes locating ones to meet your particular needs difficult. For example, key 'Phonic Skills' into the search bar on the App Store and you are given details of dozens of apps on this subject. Some are excellent but others are of dubious quality.

One way to help ensure you download good quality apps is to pay close attention to the ratings. These have been given by people who have already downloaded the app. An app receiving 4 or 5 stars is probably worth a closer look whereas an app receiving an average of 3 or fewer stars may not be very good. Look also at the comments that have been made. Sometimes an app may be receiving poor ratings because there is a particular issue with the software. Once this is resolved, and developers often provide regular updates, this app could be worth getting.

When you do find a good app it is a good idea take a look at other apps developed by the same company. This guide contains a number of apps that originate from the same developers. For example, Alligator Apps, Grasshopper Apps, 24x7 Digital and Innovative Mobile Apps all seem to have a good handle on what makes a good educational app. Once you open an app by a particular company in the App Store it is very easy to see the other apps they produce. Simply press the 'Related' button and their other products will be listed.

Are free apps worth considering?

Definitely, in my experience some of the free apps are just as good as ones you have to pay for. The downside of free apps is that you sometimes have to put up with adverts at the top or bottom of the screen. Others try to sell you additional features. When you are considering whether or not to pay for an app it is worth noting that the price does not always correspond to the quality. Most apps are very reasonably priced (under £2) and I have found that paying more does not necessarily mean you are getting a better quality app. Some of the dearer apps are excellent but with others you are left wondering how they justify the price tag. If possible try to download a 'lite' version first. These allow you to try out some of the features for free before you pay for it.

What are In App Purchases?

Some apps contain add on features that can be purchased from within the app. This can cause difficulties, particularly when the iPad is in the hands of young children who do not understand that they are spending real money. To ensure that little ones do not create an unexpected bill, it is advisable for parents to ensure that their iTunes password needs to be used for each purchase. It is also possible to turn off in app purchases in Settings.

Are the apps from this guide available on Android Marketplace?

Many of the apps featured in this guide are available to download on other platforms such as Android. Indeed, it is worth emphasizing that the iPad is not the only tablet that can be used for educational purposes. It is simply the one I own and have used to compile this list. It is also the one that is most widely used in schools at present.

Early Language Skills

Icon	App Title	App Description
	Sound Touch	This is a simple little app that reinforces sounds and pictures. Each page has 12 items displayed with bright, cartoon pictures. Tap a picture and a real-life photo of the item pops open, accompanied by the sound it makes. Items are organised into one of six categories - domestic/farm animals, wild animals, birds, vehicles, musical instruments, and household items.
	Things That Go Together	In this application, children are presented with items that go together in pairs and it is their task to figure out the connections. The app includes more than 150 matching pairs and these can be presented on their own or along with up to seven other pairs. Parents and teachers can also add their own matching pairs which they can link to their own audio descriptions.
	Little Stars Toddler Game	A fantastic app that enables children to learn and reinforce early concepts. Topics include: letter names and sounds, first words, recognising and counting numbers, shapes, and colours. Children can play by themselves or challenge a friend/parent in two player mode.
	Rhyming Words	Another matching game from the same company that produces 'Things That Go Together'. This time the aim is to pair words that rhyme. The app includes good audio reinforcement by congratulating the child each time they successfully match a pair that rhyme.
	Talking Tom Cat	This is one of many virtual pet programs that are available to download. Tom, the alley cat, will parrot your every word in a modulated tone. Children will find his altered voice hilarious, but parents might quickly tire of it. However, if it encourages speech stick with it! Talking Tom Cat and other apps of this type are usually free to download but watch out for the in-app purchases.
	Articulation Station	This app has been created by speech therapists and is designed to help children learn how to pronounce their consonantal sounds more clearly. There are a total of 22 sound programs and each targets sounds in the initial, medial and final positions of words, sentences and stories. The P sound program comes free but all the others need to be purchased.

Language Skills

Icon	App Title	App Description
	Photo Touch Concepts	This app enables children to practice and reinforce a range of concepts including – time based concepts (e.g. before and after), spatial concepts (e.g. above and below) and opposite concepts (e.g. wet and dry). It is possible to customise the success sounds so that your child can hear encouragements in your voice.
	Action Words	This app focuses on helping children learn new action words by showing them photographs where the actions are clearly acted out. 'Action Words' is easy to customise so everything can be adjusted to suit the child. Individual action words can be turned on and off so it is possible to introduce one new action word at a time.
	Little Finder	This hidden object game should appeal to both parents and children. Each object can be announced in writing and/or via audio. It therefore has the potential to reinforce both receptive vocabulary and sight vocabulary. The photographs used are clear and sharp which makes them quite easy to pick out even when they are small. 'Little Finder' can be played as either one player or a two player game.
	Bitsboard	Bitsboard offers free access to thousands of flashcards and carefully selected lessons covering a wide range of topics. It is also possible for users to create their own flashcards. Bitsboard includes 8 mini games that can be used to reinforce the chosen skill.
	The Opposites	This Is a nicely presented word game that challenges children to match pairs of opposing words in increasingly difficult levels. 'Opposites' starts with easy word pairings, like 'up-down', but as players move through the levels they are challenged with more complex and abstract pairings. Opposites includes a customised dictionary of word meanings and synonyms in a child friendly format.
	Learn English with Lingo Arcade	Learn English is aimed at people who are learning English as a second language but could be equally useful for children who would benefit from reinforcement of their vocabulary. The app features more than 3000 words, phrases and sentences. The pictures are also well presented and there are four game modes to choose from.
	Sentence Builder	Sentence Builder is designed to help primary aged children learn how to build grammatically correct sentences. Explicit attention is paid to the connector words that make up over 80% of the English language. Sentence Builder offers a rich and fun environment for improving the grammar of all children.

Communication Skills

Icon	App Title	App Description
	ABA Flash Cards & Games	Identifying, understanding, and responding appropriately to emotions is a very important skill for children to learn. This app covers over 20 different emotions. All are presented using clear, crisp photographs. Several game formats are available and users can add their own photos and annotate them with their own voice.
	That's How I Feel	That's how I feel is designed to help children with poor communication skills express their feelings using symbols. The feelings are organized into three groups, positive feelings, neutral feelings and negative feelings. These are associated with a colour to assist children understand the feelings better.
	Scene Speak	Scene Speak allows users to create interactive visual scenes and social stories. Although the graphics are fairly basic Scene Speak's real strength is that images can be edited with active hotspots. A hotspot is an area of the screen that, when it is touched, plays sounds. Each image can have multiple hotspots. These can also be used to add text labels or even link to another visual scene. Images with text can be combined into "books" by theme or area of interest.
	Tap to Talk	TapToTalk is an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) app. It enables children who have limited speech to convey messages about what they want or how they are feeling. Users simply tap pictures and TapToTalk speaks for them. The app comes with a number of pictures preloaded but the customisation is limited.
	Sono Flex	Sono Flex is another AAC app that turns symbols into clear speech. It comes with more than 11,000 symbols preloaded and is fully customisable. Users can add their own symbols and photographs. There is also a choice of 5 high quality voices; one boy, one girl, two women and one male voice. Sono Flex can be downloaded as a lite version.
	Proloquo To Go	Proloquo To Go is probably the ultimate augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) app. By tapping buttons that represent words, children can string whole sentences together. The image library comes preloaded with over 14,000 symbols and parents/teachers can add their own photos and images to create new buttons. Existing buttons can also be edited to suit individual needs.

Letter Knowledge & Phonic Skills

Icon	App Title	App Description
	ABC Spy	ABC Spy uses the popular game of I Spy to help children learn the alphabet and letter sounds in a fun way. The app also makes use of the iPad's built in camera and encourages children to take pictures of items beginning with certain letters/sounds. For younger children, it's a good way to explore the alphabet, learn letter sounds and anchor that learning to the world around them.
	Pocket Phonic	Pocket Phonics is a very popular app that teaches letter sounds, first words and handwriting. It is aimed at children aged between 3 and 6, although could also be useful for older children. Pocket Phonics introduces users to each of the key letter sounds. As they learn the sounds, the app guides them how to write each letter using follow-me arrows.
	Junior Bingo	This app enables young children to learn and practice their colours, shapes, and numbers as well as their letters and letter sounds. There are two ways to play - Practice and Bingo. Practice enables users to learn and review concepts with virtual flash cards and Bingo allows children to test themselves using the traditional game. When they complete a line they earn a bingo bug that can be added to their collection.
	Little Finder ABC	This app uses a similar setup to 'Little Finder Hidden Objects' only this time the children have to identify the letters. The app is easy to customise with users able to choose between the letter names and letter sounds. It is also possible to record your own letter names and sounds if you don't like the American accent on the original one.
	Little Stars Word Wizard	This app uses the same format as the 'Little Star Toddler Game' to help children discover and learn sounds, letters and words. It is easy to customise making it possible to focus on certain sounds or letters. It is also possible to add your own items. Children can play by themselves or challenge a friend/parent in two player mode.
	Endless Alphabet	This is a beautifully presented app that enables children to develop their phonic knowledge and vocabulary. Each word features an interactive puzzle game with talking letters and a short animation which illustrates the definition in a funny and engaging way. The app comes preloaded with one word for each letter but additional words are delivered automatically to the app on a regular basis.
	Phonics Genius	This flashcard-style app helps children learn and reinforce words. The focus is on letter combinations with users being encouraged to look for particular letter patterns and the sounds they make. The app contains over 6,000 professionally recorded words grouped into 225 phonic categories. For a more personalized learning experience, children can record their own voice.

Sight Vocabulary

Icon	App Title	App Description
	My First 1000 Words	My first 1000 words actually contains over 1500 words arranged into convenient categories like first words, foods and hobbies. All are clearly presented with beautiful illustrations. The only downside is the American spelling of some words but it is possible to change these. Users can also add their own words and photographs and record the pronunciation.
	Word Search for Kids	This app contains over 1000 word search puzzles that are divided into categories such as animals, transport, people, colours, numbers, etc. In the 'Puzzles for Small Kids' section every word is depicted with a picture and its name is spoken aloud. The 'Puzzles for Big Kids' section including topics such as countries, musical instruments, days, months, sports, etc. Again watch out for the American spelling.
	Sight Words and Spelling	This app is made up of three different game modes: Flash Card - seeing and hearing the word for the first time, Word Challenge - recognizing the word and selecting it in a multiple choice word challenge format and Spelling - knowing how to spell the word in the spelling mode. It is also possible to record your own words so you can add ones that the child is learning in class.
	Sight Words Hangman	Sight Words Hangman uses the traditional pencil and paper word game as a vehicle for learning and reinforcing high frequency words. There are over 30 word lists to choose from and the flashcards mode allows children to become more familiar with the words in a given list. The game presents the target word in a group of four. The child then hears the word and makes their selection.
	Word Bingo	Word Bingo is comprised of four games that help to reinforce word knowledge and spelling. It uses the Dolch word list of 220 words grouped by level, and includes pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and verbs. There are also 95 nouns on a separate list. It is possible to create five different player profiles.
	Smiley Sight Words	The idea of this app is simple - show the words to your child to see if they can read them. If they are unable to do so they can press the word to hear its pronunciation. Words read correctly can be marked with thumbs up smiley faces, the aim being to earn 3 thumbs-up for each word. Smiley sight words is customisable for up to 40 players so is ideal for use in the classroom.
	Sight Words Pro	SightWords Pro is produced by the same company responsible for Smiley Sight Words and it contains exactly the same word lists. There are, however, two crucial differences. Firstly, this app has a much more adult feel to it and so would be suitable for older children. Secondly, it is possible to add your own custom words and record your own pronunciations.

Spelling

Icon	App Title	App Description
	Simplex Spelling Phonics 1	Contains over 450 high frequency words divided into 42 lists that are organized by spelling patterns and difficulty levels. Each of the 42 lists comes with a lesson that teaches one of the basic building blocks of spelling in the English language. These basic building blocks include the different phonograms, sounds, and spelling rules.
	Simplex Spelling Sight Words	Simplex Spelling HD teaches the Dolch sight words to establish a base foundation in spelling and reading fluency. Rather than using flash cards, Simplex Spelling enables pupils to build each word and discover different letter patterns that can be used to make particular sounds. The app also allows you to build your own spelling lists.
	My Spelling Test	This app allows children to practice the same words that they are learning in school by creating their own spelling lists. Children can then test themselves and their scores and the words they have misspelled are saved. Thus, even if your child practices by him/herself, you can always see how they are doing each time they take a test.
	Spelling Test	An app that is very similar to 'My Spelling Test' in that allows users to create their own spelling lists and test themselves. The layout is more grown-up looking and so should appeal to slightly older users. Very easy to input new words and record their pronunciation.
	A+ Spelling Test	Another app that allows you to create your own spelling tests. Results are recorded so it is easy to track progress and quickly see how children are doing and which words, if any, they are struggling with. Also includes games such as unscramble. In this mode, instead of hearing the word and having to spell it, you see a scramble of letters and have to figure out what word they are for.
	School A to Z	This app is produced by the NSW Department of Education and Communities and brings together a wealth of resources to help parents to understand and support their child's homework. There are definitions of words commonly used in school. The 'Spelling Bee' game is an excellent way for children to develop their spelling vocabulary. Times Tables can also be practiced using the 'Maths Monkey' game.
	Spell + Friends	This is an app for anyone who really wants to stretch their spelling abilities. It contains over 2,000 words in 3 categories with clear and crisp pronunciations, definitions and etymology. Words can be marked out as favourite and incorrectly spelled words will be tagged for future improvement and practice.

Writing Skills

Icon	App Title	App Description
	Ready to Print	Ready to Print was created by an Occupational Therapist and progresses through pre-writing and early writing skills in a specific order so that children can master the visual-motor, visual-perceptual and fine motor skills necessary for correct writing. It features ten different activities. All can be played with fingers, or a stylus as readiness is achieved.
	Hairy letters	From the makers of Nessy this app helps to reinforce letter names, sounds and formation. Letter sounds come to life with animated characters. Children can then interact with the animations and trace letter shapes on-screen with their finger. They can also play games to reinforce learning.
	Letter School	This app enables children to practice letters using four different games: Intro – where they discover the letter's shape, name and sound, Tap – where they learn where to start, change direction and finish by tapping the dots, Trace – where they learn the letter trajectory by tracing it and finally Write - where they are able to test their knowledge by writing from memory.
	Intro to Letters	Another good app for practicing letter formation. Users are taken through a series of guided, interactive exercises, beginning will single letters but progressing to letter combinations. A special recording section helps children learn sounds, phonograms and names.
	Dictionary. com	There are a number of dictionaries available for the iPad but this one is hard to beat. It is actually a thesaurus as well as a dictionary and includes more than 275,000 definitions and 80,000 synonyms. The app also features audio pronunciations, similarly spelled words and a Word of the Day section.
	Miss Spell's Class	A free word game from Dictionary.com that lets players test their spelling skills against their database of the most commonly misspelled words. Players must quickly decide whether each of 20 words is spelled correctly or incorrectly, as penalties are added for each wrong answer.

Creative

Icon	App Title	App Description
	Felt Board	Felt Board for the iPad is inspired by the actual felt boards used for years by children, teachers and storytellers. It is possible to create characters by selecting skin colour, hair and facial features. Users can then choose from a wide variety of costumes, settings and props to complete their story. Best of all because it is an app, the pieces will never get lost!
	Sock Puppets	Sock Puppets lets you create your own lip-synched videos and share them on online. Children can add puppets, props, scenery, and backgrounds then all they have to do is start creating. Hit the record button and the puppets automatically lip-synch to your voice.
	Toontastic	This app allows children to draw, animate and share their own cartoons. Making cartoons with Toontastic is very easy. Simply press the record button, move your characters onscreen, and tell your story. Toontastic records your animation and voice as a cartoon video to share with friends and family on ToonTube, the app's global storytelling network for kids.
	Story Creator Pro	Story Creator allows children to easily create their own story books containing photos, videos, text, and audio. It is very easy to use and completed stories can be shared via e-mail. The Pro version contains new layouts and the ability to add stickers.
	ScrapPad	This app enables children to create scrapbooks using their photos. There are a number of themed kits available to choose from or users can mix and match backgrounds and borders to create their own designs. Within a very short space of time children will be able to create great looking books that they can then share with family and friends.
	Photo Puppet	This app enables users to star in their own animations. Simply select a photo and carefully cut it out. It is then possible to move the character on the screen. Animations can be recorded and uploaded to YouTube. Photo Puppet should appeal to older users who are likely to look upon Toontastic and Felt Board as being a bit babyish.
	Video Star	Video Star makes children the stars of their own music videos. Users can select from hundreds of effects before, during, or after recording. It is also possible to pause at any time to set up a new scene. The clever thing is that no matter how many scenes you shoot, the music stays in perfect sync. Additional effects can be purchased including "green screen" effects.

Stories

Icon	App Title	App Description
	Little Fox Music Box	This is a sing-along songbook that has been beautifully illustrated. There are three songs with more than 100 interactive elements that will engage and entertain young children. The little fox music studio (in app purchase) allows children to record their own songs. The "Nighty Night" app is also worth checking out. A great bedtime activity.
	Spatter and Spark	An engaging original story from bestselling children's book author Deborah Underwood. It is beautifully illustrated featuring art from acclaimed illustrator Luciana Navarro Powell. Spatter and Spark also contains many interactive features. Best of all it is free, so not much left to criticise really!
	Tab Tale Books	Tab Tale Books make a variety of interactive stories. All are free to download but can also be purchased to remove the on screen ads. They can be used as audiobooks or children can read them on their own. It is also possible for users to record their own version and play this back on subsequent visits. Each book contains a variety of games and puzzles.
	Toy Story	Surprisingly, most of the Disney interactive books are disappointing but this one is definitely an exception. It is a fully interactive reading book containing numerous games, colouring in pages and songs. There are also several clips from the movie which should help to keep children engaged with the story. It can be read aloud or users can record their own narration.
	Read with Biff, Chip and Kipper	This app allows you to buy and store a variety of Oxford Reading Tree books. The online versions are true to the printed books and make good use of the interactive features of the iPad. Children can get the exact pronunciation of each word by tapping a word on the page. The books also contain activities such as spot the difference, mazes etc.
	Me Books	This app enables users to download over 100 modern and classic children's books via in app purchases. Parents will probably remember books such as the 'Read it Yourself' series. The modern favourites include characters such as Peppa Pig, Charlie & Lola and Elmer. Each book is narrated, many by well-known actors, or children can record their own narration.
	iBooks	iBooks provides access to Apple's online ibookstore where users can browse and download a huge number of books ranging from new releases to classics. It is also possible to read a free sample of any book in the iBookstore before purchase. Many of the children's books are filled with interactive features such as diagrams, photos, and videos.

Early Numeracy Skills

Icon	App Title	App Description
	Counting Bears	This is a simple app that helps children learn how to count. It is beautifully presented and the interface is very easy to use. The child has to touch the items on the screen. As each item is counted the child hears the number spoken and will see the corresponding digit on screen. It is possible to add your own items, e.g. take pictures of your child's favourite toys to make the game more personal.
	Candy Count	Candy Count provides a simple but fun and interactive way to teach young children colours and numbers. Concepts covered include sorting colours, counting numbers (1-12), comparing quantities and arranging numbers. Each session is timed so that you can track progress.
	Preschool Numbers Game	Excellent app for reinforcing number recognition and counting skills. Covers a wide range of numbers from single digit to 1000. It is also fully customisable. For example, you can select exactly what numbers to teach. It is also possible to add your own voice.
	Math Tree	The Math Tree uses beautiful graphics to assist a child's progress from basic counting to simple addition and subtraction using numbers from zero to ten. Users complete sums by moving items to and from the tree. As the task is completed, the numerical equation is highlighted piece by piece, demonstrating the relationship between the parts.
	Marble Math Junior	Users are asked to solve a variety of math problems by collecting numbers/symbols as they roll or drag their marble through a series of mazes. Questions are presented in written format but audio support is available for emerging readers. Users have the option to replay the question or show the correct answer before moving on to the next problem. It is possible to add unlimited user profiles.
	Bugs and Numbers	Enables users to learn and practice a range of early mathematical skills including recognising numerals, the concept of left and right, counting and matching shapes. It also covers addition, subtraction, fractions, money, measurement and telling the time, making it a very versatile app. The graphics are incredibly realistic and it is possible to set up multiple users.
	Numbers with Nemo	Numbers with Nemo helps children to practice early number skills (1-10) through fun, character-driven activities. The skills covered include: counting and tracing numbers, counting and matching the number of objects in different groups, number identification, and sequencing.

Numeracy Skills

Icon	App Title	App Description
	Math Bingo	Math Bingo allows users to practice and reinforce the four main operations: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. These can be played individually or games can contain a mixture of sums. Users can choose from 3 different levels of difficulty: Easy, Medium and Hard and up to 5 player profiles can be created.
	Interactive Telling Time	This is a very well thought out app that will be invaluable to children learning to tell the time. It is broken up into different sections giving users several ways to practice the concepts. They can learn how to: read a clock, set the time via the interactive clock, convert between the analog and digital clock, how to use am/pm, 12 hour and 24 hour clock notation.
	Marble Math	Users have to solve a variety of math problems by collecting numbers as they roll or drag their marble through a series of mazes. The emphasis is very much on having fun with users able to earn new marbles and collect bonuses. They will, however, be reinforcing key concepts in pursuit of a high score.
	Math Drills	A nicely presented app that allows users to learn basic math facts. Solutions can be explored in a variety of ways. For example, using number lines and wooden blocks. Other hints are also available.
	Math Board	MathBoard is one of the best apps available for practicing addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. It is easy to configure and is suitable for learners of all ages. Users are encouraged to solve problems using the scratchboard area. It is also possible to turn to MathBoard's Problem Solver where the steps required to solve a computation are clearly explained.
	Maths Wizz	Another great app for practicing different types of maths skills including: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, angles and more. Games include a study mode where users choose the question types and practice, a stress test where they answer as many questions as they can in the time limit and a quiz.
	Times Tables	This app enables users to practice their times table knowledge. Specific tables can be targeted or the facts can be presented randomly. Users can also decide whether they want the questions to appear as 4 x 1, 4 x 2 or 1 x 4, 2 x 4. Once children have covered all the tables they have the opportunity to play a variety of timed quizzes. The app can be configured for multiple users.

Reasoning Skills

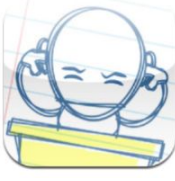| Icon	App Title	App Description
	What's Diff 1	What's Diff 1 (What's Different) helps young children learn about patterns and differences. They are presented with a line of objects and have to pick the odd one out. In this version the difference are very clear cut but in What's Diff 2 and What's Diff 3 the patterns become progressively more difficult to figure out.
	Little Patterns Colour	Little Patterns – Colour is an app that helps children learn how to recognize and complete patterns involving colour. Other apps available in this series are Little Patterns – Numbers, Little Patterns – Toys, Little Patterns – Shapes, Little Patterns – Animals and Little Patterns – ABC. All use clear, sharp images and allow users to add their own voice.
	Little Solver	Little Solver is a fun game to help children develop their critical thinking and reasoning skills. The app includes hundreds of logic puzzles and analogies divided into 12 levels.
	Jigsaw Box	Jigsaw Box contains over 100 puzzles conveniently arranged into categories such as Cats and Dogs, Wild Animals and Planes, Trains, Cars. Further puzzles can be downloaded from the store (some are free) or it is possible for users to create their own puzzles from photos. Users can also choose the level of difficulty with jigsaws ranging from 8 pieces to 252.
	Bugs and Buttons	A visually stunning collection of 18 games and activities that are both entertaining and educational. Each activity offers simple visual instructions and the app progressively adapts to the skill level of the user. Children can choose to be automatically guided through the games or can explore and play them on their own.
	Bugs and Bubbles	This is the latest app from the creators of Bugs and Buttons. Again it contains 18 games, all will entertain and most will educate. It is based around Uncle Bob's Bubble Factory where you can harvest, pinch, pop, and even nudge bubbles. Covers a variety of skills including colours, shapes, letters and counting.
	Fit Brains Trainer	Fit Brains Trainer provides a collection of fun reasoning games that focus on areas such as processing speed, concentration, problem solving and visual skills. The creators suggest that it should be used for a few minutes each day in order to improve performance in these areas. The app is free to download and users are given several free training sessions to get them started but have to sign up to an in app purchase if they want to continue using it.

Memory Skills

Icon	App Title	App Description
	Memory King	Memory King is a fun pairs matching games that can be easily customised. Users select exactly how many pairs to include in each game from 2 to 32. 60 memory cards (toys and animals) are provided free. Other topics such as animals, first words and core concepts are available via in app purchases.
	Monster Hunt	A simple but fun memory game that will appeal to young children. The monsters are beautifully animated and the condescending laugh they make when they win a game will inspire even the most uncompetitive person to want to beat them. The multi-player mode allows parents to play with their children.
	Memorise	Designed by a Clinical Neuropsychologist this game is simple to play and surprisingly addictive. See what your current working memory span is and play the game to improve it. The app is free to download and the training report feature can be purchased to track progress over time.

Sensory

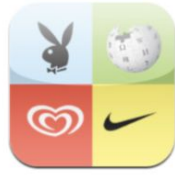| Icon	App Title	App Description
	Koi Pond	This app simulates water and fish behaviour in an extremely realistic way. I fact you could be forgiven for thinking that you are looking at actual fish. The animations are accompanied by soothing sounds. When you run your fingers across the iPad the water ripples away from your touch just as if you were really touching the surface of a pond. The koi also dart away only to quickly forget and swim close to you once more. An amazing app!
	Bubble Popper	Few things in life can compare to the satisfaction of popping bubbles in bubble wrap. This app allows users to pop virtual bubbles on screen. The bubbles look real and make exactly the same sound when touched. The game mode allows children to challenge themselves to pop as many bubbles as they can in a given time frame.
	Fluidity	This app basically turns your iPad into a lava lamp that you can interact with. The colours are stunning and it is possible to control the flow of the fluid. In-App purchase enables ambient audio, and video out using VGA, Component or Composite cable.
	Singing Fingers	Singing Fingers is a unique app that lets you finger paint with sound. Users simply touch the screen while talking or singing and colorful paint appears. Touch the paint again to play back the sound.
	Magic Fingers	This app enables you to use your fingers to create many different effects. Indeed, there are over 50 different graphical effects to choose from. The background music should also have a soothing effect. Available as a lite version or adverts can be removed by purchasing the full version.
	Art of Glow	Art of Glow enables users to create a variety of glow based artworks. The colours are vivid and it is easy to adjust the content. Users are able to choose the colour, shape and speed of the drawings. It is then simply a case of finger painting endless combinations of moving, twinkling, fading art forms.

Behaviour

Icon	App Title	App Description
	Star Jar	This app provides a convenient way to record and reward children's good behaviour. With Star Jar there is no need to wait until you get home to award stars on a star chart, it can now be done on the go using either an iPhone or an iPad. It is also possible to configure it so that the whole family can contribute to the Star Jar and enjoy the rewards together.
	My Class Rules	One for the teachers. This app makes a game out of keeping noise in the classroom to a minimum. It works by monitoring the noise level as pupils perform their work. The less noise they make, the more points they earn and the quicker their score will climb. Teachers can challenge other classes within the school and even classes from other schools around the world.
	Too Noisy	Another app that aims to keep the noise levels under control. When turned on, it constantly monitors noise levels and lets the children know in a fun and engaging way if noise levels have reached an unacceptable level. It is possible to adjust the sensitivity of the app so that a higher level of noise is required before the graphic changes.
	Chore Pad	This is a nice little tool for motivating children to complete chores. Each child completes their assigned chores to earn stars which are redeemable for rewards that parents create. Bonus stars can be given for a job well done. The parent mode keeps the app child friendly by tucking the important setup features safely away.
	Best Timer	This app includes four standard timers, each built to mimic the way they traditionally look. There is a digital sand timer, a kitchen timer, a countdown timer, and a stopwatch. The sand timer and countdown timer may be particularly useful for helping children see how long they have left to complete a particular topic.
	Stop Go!	A very easy to use timer in the form of a traffic light. Users set the times in minutes and seconds and whether they want it to run red-amber-green or green-amber-red. A bell chimes as each light changes. It can be used to help children prepare for a transition, e.g. "5 minutes on the computer before lunch" (green to red) or to time a timeout (red to green).

Organisational Skills

Icon	App Title	App Description
	Potty Time	A simple little app that enables parents to track and reward potty training progress. Using either an iPad or an iPhone parents can chart their child's success. This can then be printed for display on the fridge, bedroom wall etc. Rewards include getting a phone call from Rachel, reading a book together, watching a video together and playing a game together. Free to download but some content requires in app purchases.
	Choice Works	Comprised of three boards: schedule, waiting and feelings. The schedule board focuses on making task completion easier. Up to 8 steps are possible and each is paired with an all done column to check off on the way to a reward. The waiting board is a useful way to teach waiting skills like taking turns and not interrupting. The feelings board provides a tool for helping children understand and express emotions.
	My Choice Board	The purpose of this app is to present a visual display of "choices" to those with limited communication skills. This gives children with communication difficulties the opportunity to express their own specific needs and wants. A variety of choice boards can be created and saved for future use. They can also be themed to display individual preferences e.g. sensory or playtime choices and food preferences.
	I See-quence	This app acts as a photo social story for children who need help to understand sequences and routines. For example, twenty-four icons with real picture images are used to illustrate the sequence of a morning routing. Each page can be individualized for the user by adding personal photos, text and audio.
	Visual Schedule Planner	This is a customizable visual schedule that is designed to give an individual an audio/visual representation of the events in their day. Any events that require more support can be linked to an activity schedule or video clip to help model the task even further. It will be of benefit to any children who need visual support to ease transitions.

Word & Trivia Games

Icon	App Title	App Description
	Wurdle	Wurdle is a fast paced word finding game. The aim is to find and trace as many words as possible before time runs out. Once you have found all the possible words shake the board to mix up the tiles. Play continues until time runs out. Wurdle can be played individually or as a two player game.
	Letris 2	Letris is a simple game where users must build words in order to keep the screen clean for as long as possible. It includes several game modes and it is possible to play individually or against a friend.
	Futaba Classroom Games	This is an excellent game that allows up to four players to compete in a fun quiz. There are a broad range of questions built into the app but it is the ability to make your own content that really makes this app stand out. It is possible to use Futaba to reinforce a wide range of skills. Best of all children love it.
	Logo Quiz Ultimate	A simple but addictive game where you have to guess the logos of different brands and products. It is divided into 24 levels with 50 logos in each level. Players receive 100 points for identifying each logo but they must be spelt correctly. 5 points are deducted for each failed attempt. Two hints are available for each logo.
	Music Quiz	The idea of this app is to guess the artist and title of each song. With every good (green vinyl) or perfect (gold vinyl) songs guessed users earn stars. These can be redeemed to buy hints.
	What's the Capital?	Another seemingly simple but addictive game. This one tests users' knowledge of capital cities and countries. The quiz mode allows users to see how many questions they can get right in a row.

Other

Icon	App Title	App Description
	TED	TED stands for Technology, Education and Design. Their slogan is - Riveting talks by remarkable people, free to the world. The official TED app presents more than 1,400 talks from some of the world's most fascinating people: education radicals, tech geniuses, medical mavericks, business gurus and music legends. For example, listen to Colin Powell on the topic 'Kids need Structure'. Talks can be downloaded so that they can be watched offline.
	iTunes You	The iTunes U app gives users access to complete courses from leading universities and other educational institutions including Stanford, Yale, MIT and Oxford. For example, check out the 'Autism and Related Disorders' course from Yale University or 'Exploring Children's Difficulties with Language and Literacy' from the Open University.
	Khan Academy	Khan Academy's materials and resources are available completely free of charge. The library contains more than 3,500 videos on a wide range of topics. These can be viewed online or can be downloaded and saved so that they can be watched offline. Children will find interesting talks on a whole range of topics that they are studying in school.