

Tips For Choosing Apps For Your Child

When choosing new apps for your child, think of the 3 C's:

- ✚ **Content:** Choose apps that let your child control the activity and where they can engage, explore, express, and imagine! For example, choose an app that lets your child create their own music, rather than listen to pre-recorded songs.
- ✚ **Context:** Consider what your child will do before, during and after using apps. For example, if you are going to the doctor, look for an app that deals with experiences at a doctor's office. Use the app together and then relate the activities in the app to what your child will experience with their real visit.
- ✚ **Child:** Choose apps that will interest your child, are within their abilities, and fit with the other activities in their life. For example, if your child is interested in tigers, watch video clips of wild tigers, use an app to read a story about a tiger, and then draw pictures of tigers together.

Tips For Enjoying Apps With Your Child

- ✚ **Share the experience** – Enjoy apps together. Use them to spark conversations, sing songs, make up new stories, and play together.
- ✚ **Take the experience beyond the device** – Read the print book associated with an app, find books about the animals you see on screen, or if an app talks about colours, point out real life objects with that colour.
- ✚ **Make your experience count** – Look for high quality apps, check reviews, talk to other parents and to librarians. Ask your child what they enjoy about the apps they already like.
- ✚ **Shape your child's experience** – You know your child best. Choose apps that engage your child's interests. Set limits that you feel are appropriate for your child and your family.

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Parents' Night Out: Apps for Your Little Ones



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Apps From this Workshop



Animal Sounds – Fun Toddler Game
by Innovative Mobile pps
iPad/iPhone
Free



Felt Board – Mother Goose on the Loose
by Felt Board Smoothie
iPad
Free



Grow a Read
by Calgary Public Library
iPad/iPhone
Free



Lazoo: Squiggles!
by Lazoo Worldwide
iPad
Free



Peekaboo Forest
by Night and Day Studios
iPad/iPhone
\$1.99



Sesame Street Family Play
by Sesame Street
iPad/iPhone
\$0.99



Switch Zoo
by TubeHead
iPad/Android
\$2.99

Doodle Monkey
by Hayloft LLC
iPad/iPhone
Free



Go Away Big Green Monster
by Night and Day Studios
iPad/Android
\$1.99



It Was a Cold, Dark Night Story Creator
by Collins Big Cat
iPad
Free



Monster at the End of This Book
by Sesame Street
iPad/iPhone
\$4.99



Planes – Byron Barton
by Oceanhouse Media
iPad/iPhone
\$1.99



Shadow Puppets
by Shadow Puppets Inc.
iPad/iPhone
Free



The Going to Bed Book
by Loud Crow Interactive
iPad/iPhone/Android
\$3.99



Toca Doctor
by Toca Boca
iPad/iPhone
\$2.99



Touch and Learn Emotions
by Innovative Mobile Apps
iPad/iPhone
Free



Wee Alphas
by Wee Society LLC
iPad
\$2.99

Toca Tea Party
by Toca Boca
iPad
\$2.99



Touch and Write
by Fizzbrain
iPad/iPhone
\$2.99



Wheels on the Bus
by Duck Duck Moose
iPad/iPhone/Android
\$1.99



Resources

Books and Articles:

Into the Minds of Babes: How Screen Time Affects Children from Birth to Age Five
Lisa Guernsey (2007) - J302.234 G93i

Rosin, Hanna. "The Touch Screen Generation." *The Atlantic*. April 2013.
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2013/04/the-touch-screen-generation/309250/>

Review Websites:

AppAble: App Advice for the special needs community
<http://www.appabled.com/>

Children's Technology Review: Objective reviews of children's media
<https://childrenstech.com/>

EdApps4Sale: Includes app suggestions for the early learning practices
<http://edapps4sale.digital-storytime.com/index.php>

Common Sense Media: All kinds of media reviews & training curricula for digital literacy
<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

Traditional Review Sites:

Horn Book: <http://www.hbook.com/tag/e-books-and-apps/>
Kirkus: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/ipad/>

VPL Digital Content for Children:

On <http://www.vpl.ca/>, click eBooks & Downloadable Audiobooks:

- To get downloadable eBooks and audiobooks, scroll down to eReading Room for Kids.
- To read and listen to talking picture books online, scroll down to TumbleBook Library.