## **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**

- **4** 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.

# **Parents' Night Out: Apps for Your Little Ones**

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Vancouver Public Library





#### Francesca de Freitas

Children's Librarian Vancouver Public Library | Central Branch t. 604-331-3603 | e: francesca.defreitas@vpl.ca

### Lindsey Krabbenhoft

Children's Librarian Vancouver Public Library | South Hill Branch t: 604-606-2774 e: lindsey.krabbenhoft@vpl.ca

# **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

**Doodle Monkey** by Hayloft LLC iPad/iPhone Free





**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



#### **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:**

AppAbled: 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.



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





Grow a Read by Calgary Public Library iPad/iPhone Free

Lazoo: Squiggles! by Lazoo Worldwide

iPad

Free

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

Monster at the End of This Book









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



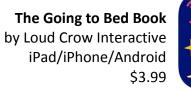
**Sesame Street Family Play** by Sesame Street iPad/iPhone \$0.99



Switch Zoo by TubeHead iPad/Android \$2.99

Shadow Puppets by Shadow Puppets Inc. iPad/iPhone Free







\$4.99

Planes – Byron Barton by Oceanhouse Media \$1.99

by Sesame Street

iPad/iPhone





**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