Parents' Night Out:

Apps for Your School-Age Kid

VPL

Vancouver Public Library

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Tips for Choosing Apps

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 your child will use an app to create something, is there a way for them to show off their creation? If an app talks about chemical reactions, can you do a kitchen experiment together to see one in real life? Take time to talk about what your child experienced with the app.
- **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 music or sports, find apps that let them express those passions.

Tips for Using Apps

- **Share the experience** – Enjoy apps together as a family. Use them to spark conversations, to play with or against each other, and to show each other your creativity.
- **Take the experience beyond the device** – Read the print book associated with an app, find books about the animals you see on screen, or share your creations with friends.
- **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.
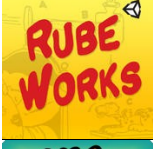
VPL Digital Content for Children:

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.

Apps for Creating

	123D Sculpt Mold, sculpt, and paint a shape into a realistic 3D image.	Autodesk Inc. Free iPad
	Big Nate Create comics using the popular Big Nate characters. Start with a story prompt, fill in the blanks, or create your own story from scratch.	Night & Day Studios, Inc. $1.99 iPhone, iPad, iPod touch
	DoodleBuddy Use a large selection of paints, stamps, and backgrounds to draw on a blank canvas, your own photographs, or pictures of mazes and worksheets.	Pinger, Inc. Free iPhone, iPad, iPod touch
	FingerPaint Studio Turn your drawings into short animated videos with movement and sound.	Cribster Free iPad
	GarageBand A professional-quality music recorder and multi-track mixer.	Apple Inc. $4.99 iPhone, iPad, iPod touch
	Lego Movie Maker A fun and easy way to create stop motion animation movies. The intuitive interface and fun features such as sound effects and filters make for hours of creative engagement.	LEGO Systems, Inc. Free iPhone, iPad, iPod touch
	MoMA Art Lab Experiment with paint, make a sound composition, or collaborate on a group drawing - a few of the activities in this creative app exploring famous artists' processes.	The Museum of Modern Art Free iPad
	Scribble Press Write and illustrate your own books, then share them online or order a printed copy, through this book-creation platform.	Scribble Press $3.99 iPad
	StarComposer Record your vocals and mix them with instrumental tracks to create your own pop song. Kids will quickly get to grips with the simple interface for their own cartoon music videos.	P4S Publishing Ltd. Free iPhone, iPad, iPod touch
	Superhero Comic Book Maker Perfect for kids who love monsters and superheroes, this app lets kids create and narrate a comic book scene.	by Duck Duck Moose $1.99 iPhone, iPad, iPod touch

Apps for Interacting with friends

ChatterPix Kids Encourage kids to communicate by taking a photo and turning it into a funny talking picture to share with friends.	Duck Duck Moose Free iPhone, iPad, iPod touch	
Minecraft - Pocket Edition Based on the popular game, this open-ended app fosters creativity and interaction as players build, seek, and survive in a virtual world.	Mojang $6.99 iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Android	
Rube Works Work together to solve everyday problems in Rube's trademark elaborate style by creating complex and hilarious machines.	Electric Eggplant $2.99 iPhone, iPad, Android	
Sock Puppets Choose your puppets, props, scenery and work with a friend to record a short puppet show.	Smith Micro Software Free iPhone, iPad, iPod touch	
StoryLines Play the game of 'telephone' with pictures in this pass-and-play app that encourages creativity and collaboration.	Edmodo Free iPhone, iPad, iPod touch	
Ticket to Ride Simple rules, fast action, and lots of strategy in this version of the award-winning tactical board game. Kids can play against each other by taking turns on the app, play against the computer or against online opponents.	Days Of Wonder $2.99 iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Android	
Williamspurrrrg HD: A Game of Cat and Mustache A multi-touch puzzle that requires all players to work together to outfit cats in the best of hipster gear.	No Crusts Interactive $1.99 iPad	

Apps for Learning

Barefoot World Atlas Take a look at the world and its landmarks, animals, people, and other topics of interest, including pictures and text descriptions.	Barefoot Books $4.99 iPhone, iPad, iPod touch	
Bobo Explores Light Tour the science of light, including refraction, lasers, how we see, and many other areas. Look at text, videos, suggestions, and experiments to learn about light and its properties.	Game Collage $4.99 iPad	

	Cargo-Bot Learn the thinking processes needed for coding in this game-like app that challenges kids to direct a robotic arm to move crates in increasingly challenging programming sequences.	Two Lives Left Free iPad
	Colour Uncovered Explore the surprising side of color with fascinating illusions, articles, and videos.	Exploratorium Free iPad
	Daisy the Dinosaur Use basic computer programming to make Daisy jump, spin, grow, and move.	Hopscotch Technologies Free iPad
	Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore An interactive picturebook based on the film of the same name, explore this story about the power of stories while solving puzzles and playing with creative tools.	Moonbot Studios LA $4.99 iPad
	Marble Math Practice math and critical thinking skills while solving maze challenges. You can customise this to specific areas of math that you want to practice.	Artgig Studio $2.99 iPhone, iPad
	Meanwhile In this interactive, choose your own adventure style, graphic story, only one path will lead you to happiness and success. This is an app version of a printed graphic novel.	Zarfhome Software Consulting $1.99 iPhone, iPad, iPod touch
	Mystery Math Town Entertaining characters and a mysterious setting set the stage for this math game which challenges you to solve math equations in order to rescue fireflies.	Artgig Studio $2.99 iPad
	The Opposites This fast-paced word game teaches vocabulary as you match pairs of opposite words before the screen fills up.	Mindshapes Limited $0.99 iPhone, iPad, iPod touch
	Slice Fractions In this problem solving game, you guide a mammoth through fire and ice obstacles by learning about fractions. A wide range of difficulty keeps this interesting for elementary school and high school kids.	Ululab $2.99 iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Android
	Sound Uncovered Explore the surprising side of sound with an interactive collection featuring auditory illusions, acoustic phenomena, and other things that go bump, beep, boom, and vroom.	Exploratorium Free iPad

App Review Websites

The American Library Association's Best Apps for Teaching and Learning – 2014
http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards-guidelines/best-apps/2014
List of award winning apps selected by teacher librarians that focus on innovation, creativity, active participation, collaboration, and user friendliness.

AppAbled
http://www.appabled.com/
App advice for the special needs community, with an emphasis on autism. Apps can be sorted by school subject.

Appitic
http://www.appitic.com/
A directory of apps selected by Apple Distinguished Educators that have been tested in a variety of different grade levels, instructional strategies and classroom settings.

Best Apps for Kids
http://www.bestappsforkids.org/
Two moms review educational apps on a very organized and well-designed website. Includes helpful video tutorials on adjusting safety restrictions on an iPad.

Children's Technology Review
https://childrenstech.com/
Subscription-based review site that uses a rubric to evaluate commercial children's digital media products such as apps, video games, and toys for children birth-15 years old.

Common Sense Media
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/
Offers unbiased educational ratings and reviews for a variety of media including apps, games, TV shows movies, and websites. Includes a helpful "What Parents Need to Know" section for each review.

Horn Book
http://www.hbook.com/tag/e-books-and-apps/
Objective app reviews from an established literary journal specializing in children and young adult literature.

Kindertown
http://www.kindertown.com/
A commercial app review site that reviews apps for kids ages 3-8 and organizes apps by age, price, device, and school subject.

Kirkus: iPad Reviews
https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/ipad/
Unbiased, critical recommendations of children's apps. Includes suggested age range, video trailers, and screenshots from the apps.

School Library Journal: Touch & Go
http://www.slj.com/category/books-media/reviews/apps/
App reviews by school and public librarians from a trusted and established review journal.