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A Guide to Apps for Parents, Teachers, and SLPs

Basic Concepts Edition

There are thousands of apps and websites that claim to be of educational benefit. Searching through all those apps and websites for the one that addresses a particular area or skill can be both time consuming and frustrating. The goal of **A Guide to Apps for Parents, Teachers, and SLPs** is to make that search for the perfect app or website a little bit easier by providing an organized list of app and interactive website resources that can be used at home or school to promote and sustain communication skills and academic achievement. Suggested apps/sites will focus on development of listening, speaking, and written language. Some of our thoughts as we began to compile our lists of apps and websites included:

- All apps/websites are not created equal. The best apps provide a combination of education and entertainment. Children learn when they are engaged.
- As Speech-Language Pathologists we believe that the use of technology should **NOT** be something a child does alone, but should be used in a manner that encourages and promotes communication and interaction with others.
- Selecting apps/sites that are appropriate for a child's age and/or overall stage of development is very important. Always ask yourself, "Is this app right for the child and what he/she can do?" Not all four year olds are capable of doing the same things with the same level of accuracy. The app should be challenging enough to keep their attention, but easy enough that it doesn't result in frustration.

This edition of **A Guide to Apps for Parents, Teachers, and SLPs** highlights apps teaching the basic language concepts necessary for success in the Pre-K through 2nd grade common core curriculum.

Learning can be fun, and technology can be a great way to provide stimulating learning opportunities. It is our hope that this resource will assist you in choosing apps that can be used to meet the individual needs of your child or the children you serve as a teacher or SLP.

Note: The price for any app in the apple iTunes store is subject to change at any time. All app prices included in this resource were accurate at the time of publication. All iTunes store links provided are for iPad versions of apps. If you need the iPhone version, enter the app name in the iTunes store search engine.		

Apps

ICON	Price	App Name / Description
	.99	**Kids Learning Photo Touch Concepts:** An educational game composed of photos that prompt the child to answer questions. Addresses a variety of essential basic concepts including opposites, colors, time, animals, and spatial concepts. Can be easily customized to address one or more concepts. http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/kids-learning-photo-touch/id423247346?mt=8
	FREE	**Comparatives Adjectives:** Teaches comprehension of comparative adjectives (big, bigger, biggest). Allows child to practice comparing and describing object differences (includes 42 adjectives). http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/comparative-adjectives/id506997421?mt=8
	.99	**Fun with Directions HD Lite:** Designed to practice listening, following directions, colors, spatial concepts, auditory memory, and auditory processing. Includes a Superstar Direction task in which the child recalls and records directions. Engaging and very kid friendly. Lite version includes 2 concepts. In-app purchase for full version includes 10 concepts for $9.99. http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fun-with-directions-hd-lite/id478249055?mt=8
	.99	**More Fun with Directions Lite:** Designed to practice listening, following directions, colors, spatial concepts, auditory memory, and auditory processing. Includes a Superstar Direction task in which the child recalls and records directions. Engaging and very kid friendly. Lite version includes 2 concepts. In-app purchase for full version includes 12 concepts for $9.99. http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/more-fun-directions-hd-lite/id491598672?mt=8
	4.99	**Pocket Charts! Pro:** Matching games that help child develop early childhood basic skills (20 games in 1 app). Addresses colors, numbers, upper/lowercase, beginning/ending sounds, position words, word families, fractions, rhyming, spelling, consonant blends, and compound words. http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pocket-charts!-pro/id548626869?mt=8
	Free	**Dog Story Learn Opposites:** Interactive, engaging storybook about dogs that teaches children about opposites (includes 26 paired opposites). Fun animations on each page. http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dog-story-learn-opposites/id479364242?mt=8 Also available for ANDROID

Websites

	Play an online game matching pictures and words of opposites. **http://www.turtlediary.com/kindergarten-games/esl-efl-games/opposite-adjectives.html**
	An online activity identifying objects based on given describing words. Use the describing words to complete sentences about pictures. **http://www.turtlediary.com/kindergarten-games/esl-efl-games/describing-words.html**

Lagniappe

A Little Something Extra – A Louisiana Tradition

Apps

ICON	Price	App Name / Description
	.99	**Beginning Sounds Interactive Game:** Match words that share the same beginning sound. Grab fun picture balls and drop them into the correct spots on a board. Very fun, engaging and educational. http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/beginning-sounds-interactive/id465479183?mt=8
	FREE	**Phonics Tic Tac Toe Interactive Game:** Build language skills in a game of tic-tac-toe. Fun, interactive game that explores vowels, syllables and more. http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/phonics-tic-tac-toe-interactive/id465184366?mt=8
	1.99	**Letter of the Day Interactive Activities:** Explore the alphabet within animated lessons covering letter formation, letter sounds, and letter chants. Practice writing alphabet letters on the iPad within this app. http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/letter-day-interactive-activities/id465471248?mt=8
	FREE	**ABCMouse.com Big Bug and Little Bug**: Cute bug story with engaging art, quality narration, and music. Lots of features, i.e., Read to Me, Read with Pause, I Can Read It, Clickable Words, and a section with Parent Tips to help your child get the most from this app. http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/abcmouse.com-big-bug-little/id375423515?mt=8
	2.99	**Starfall Learn to Read:** Includes 15 engaging, interactive stories teaching vowel sounds and their related spellings. Excellent for emerging readers. **http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/starfall-learn-to-read/id551817261?mt=8**

Websites

	Play an online game matching pictures and beginning sounds. http://www.turtlediary.com/preschool-games/esl-efl-games/phonic-match.html
	Explore the letters of the alphabet, listen to letter sounds, manipulate sounds in lots of fun games, and read stories all in one site. Lots of things to print including Reading and Writing journals for additional practice. http://www.starfall.com/

Three additional editions of this guide will be released in the coming weeks. The upcoming issues will include information and tips that would be beneficial in addressing: **Patterns, Categorization, Classification, and Sequencing, Responding to Questions, Increasing Comprehension, and Understanding and Making Inferences, and Understanding and Using Sentences.**