CrossCultural Developmental Education Services

# Apps for Diverse English Language Learners

**Dr. Catherine Collier**

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# LISTENING AND SPEAKING

## Pictello
(AssistiveWare)

Student stories come to life with Pictello. The easy-to-use interface allows students and teachers to create multimedia stories and presentations using pictures from the iPad photo library. Audio for Pictello can be produced using a text-to-speech engine, or recorded by the teacher or student. When working with students on the autism spectrum, Pictello is a great tool for creating multimedia social stories. Pictello is marketed by AssistiveWare and is available on the iTunes App Store for $18.99



## Conversation Builder
(Mobile Education Store)

Conversation Builder is a must-have application for every speech language pathologist (SLP) working with students on the Autism Spectrum. This app prompts students through each stage of an interactive conversation and records their spoken responses. At the end of each session, Conversation Builder plays back the entire conversation at a natural pace so that students can hear themselves successfully exchanging comments with their virtual peers.
Recorded conversations can be stored and even emailed to teachers and parents as documentation of student progress. Customizable features allow teachers and students to select the conversation format, length, and subject matter.
Conversation Builder is marketed by Mobile Education Store and is available on the iTunes App Store for $19.99.

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### Proloquo2Go

As one of the first Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) applications made for Apple mobile devices, Proloquo2Go has been around long enough to work out bugs and develop a strong user base. It provides an easy to use "voice" for individuals who cannot otherwise speak. One very important feature of Proloquo2Go is its ability to work on iPod, iPad, and iPhone platforms. For users with fine motor or visual disabilities, the large screen of the iPad may be the best interface. For other users, the portability of an iPod Touch or iPhone can support independence in the real world. At $189 for a single user license, Proloquo2Go is one of the most expensive apps used in the field of special education. It is important to have a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) evaluate students to determine the suitability of this application versus many of the competing products.

Proloquo2Go is marketed by AssistiveWare and is available in the iTunes App Store for $189.

### Sparkle Box
www.sparklebox.co.uk

### Twinkle
www.twinkl.co.uk

## Cheebies

http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/alphablocks/games/alphablocks-games/

## Vocabulary Games

www.manythings.org/e/easy.html

**English Vocabulary Games with Pictures**
There are 7 games on each of the 22 sets of 9 words.
Animals (Matching)
Food (Arrows)
Things in My House (Pairs)
More ...

**Click the Letters in the Correct Order**
Days of the Week
Months
Numbers 1 to 10

**Easy Vocabulary Quizzes**
Nouns - 1, Nouns - 2, Nouns - 3, Nouns - 4, Nouns - 5, Nouns - 6, Nouns - 7, Nouns - 8
Adjectives
Verbs - 1, Verbs - 2, Verbs - 3

## ABA Receptive Identification

ABA Receptive Identification by Kindergarten.com is an excellent tool for teaching young children to identify objects by looking at their picture. The app follows proven principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and errorless teaching techniques in a manner that is both clear and easy to use with young children. According to the developers, the Receptive Identification App contains about 300 pictures. The pictures are high quality photos that with white backgrounds and no distractions.

Data collection is an important part of any true ABA program.  Kindergarten.com's receptive identification app collects data during each session including a detailed summary of the correct and incorrect answers. The app provides a simple export mechanism to email the data to teachers or caregivers. My only complaint (if I had to make a complaint) is the fact that data collection does not support multiple students.

ABA Receptive Identification is marketed byKindergarten.com and is available in the iTunes app store FREE (along with all other Kindergarten.comapps) during Autism Awareness Month.

## Animal Fun

**Animal Fun** (Brian Pfeil) – shows picture of animal, spells English name of animal and then gives the sound the animal makes aloud.

## Educreation

Educreation is a wonderful app for the students to begin narratives about themselves using pictures, voice over, video and then inserting words in either their MT or simple English.
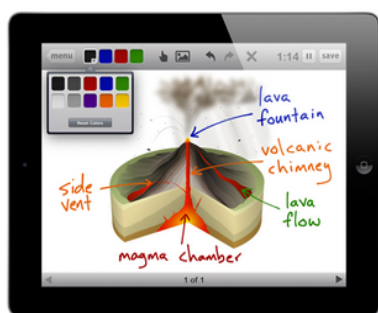


### It's Your Personal Recordable Whiteboard.

Educreations transforms your iPad into a recordable whiteboard that captures your voice and handwriting to produce amazing video lessons that you can share online. It's as simple as touching, tapping and talking.

Our handwriting technology renders beautiful digital ink that looks even better than the real thing. Make a mistake? No problem, you can always undo and redo any of your actions.

## Explain Everything

Explain Everything is an easy-to-use design, screen casting, and interactive whiteboard tool that lets you annotate, animate, narrate, import, and export almost anything to and from almost anywhere.



## Puppet Pal



Puppet Pal HD Create your own unique shows with animation and audio in real time! Simply pick out your actors and backdrops, drag them on to the stage, and tap record. Your movements and audio will be recorded in real time for playback later.

### Sock Puppets

Sock Puppets create your own lip-synched videos and share them on Facebook and YouTube. Add Puppets, props, scenery, and backgrounds and start creating. Hit the record button and the puppets automatically lip-synch to your voice.



### Toontastic



**Toontastic** (Launchpad Toys) – storytelling, drawing, pick a genre and story sequence add speech bubbles and you have a story.

### Language Builder

Language Builder is a highly effective app designed to help students increase their expressive language skills; but it can be used for much more! The app houses pictured scenes that users are asked to create sentences about. This isn't a written language task; the user formulates the sentence in their mind and then says it aloud while recording it. This voice record feature is highly motivating for our students! They love hearing themselves say the sentences that they have formulated about the pictures and enjoy playing with their voices in their recordings! The pictured scenes are appropriate for users of all ages and serve as a great teaching tool for a variety of skills. WH-Questions can be asked about the pictures, complex stories can be created by linking the pictures together to tackle creative writing skills. One of my favorite ways to use this app is as a self-monitoring



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tool for speech production targets (e.g., articulation, fluency and voice). Students can listen to their recordings and judge if they used their best /s/ sound, or if they used their best 'smooth speech'.

Language Builder is a great app to use with students experiencing language learning difficulties; the variety of skills that it can be used to address are endless!

Language Builder is marketed by the Mobile Education Store and is available in the iTunes App Store for $9.99 (iPad version) or $7.99 (iPod Version).

### Go-Togethers

Go-Togethers is a great app for students to practice receptive and expressive semantic association. The app is fully customizable, with the ability to choose levels, target categories, the number of possible correct answers presented, and the consequence for an incorrect response. The app also has the ability to generate a report at the conclusion of the activity, to track and monitor student progress.

One of the great things about this app is the fact that it encourages interaction between student and teacher; not just between student and device. We strongly recommend this app for students with autism, and for use in speech therapy programs.

Go-Togethers is marketed by Smarty Ears and is available in the iTunes App Store for $9.99.

### Scene and Heard

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Students with autism frequently have difficulties in the area of communication.  Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) tools can be used to support communication and improve language acquisition. Scene and Heard uses pictures (scenes) and "hot spots" with recorded audio to facilitate communication.  Setting up communication "scenes" on this app is as simple as taking a photo with the built-in camera and selecting "hot spots" to record audio.

There is plenty of research documenting the effectiveness of using pictures or scenes to enhance communication for children with autism. Research shows that this format is especially effective for early learners. At $49.99, Scene and Heard is more expensive than similar applications on the market.  It is worth exploring the Lite version first to see if the application is appropriate for your use.

Scene and Heard is marketed by Therapy Box Limited and is available in the iTunes App Store for $49.99.  There is also a Scene and Heard Lite version that is free of charge.

### Verbally

In the field of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), there are lots of choices. Verbally is the first application I have found that focuses only on a keyboard for interaction and communication. The keyboard mode of interaction is much more appropriate for higher functioning individuals and provides them with a consistent AAC platform.  A key feature of Verbally is the fact that it does not include any "cute" icons, stick figures, or language that

might be stigmatizing to more mature students. The keyboard appearance on the iPad screen is clean and professional.

Verbally is opening new avenues for communication among people with autism and is well deserving of recognition. The fact that Verbally continues to be available free of charge is a great service to the special education population in general and Intuary should be recognized and honored for their service.

Verbally was developed by Intuary, Inc. and is available on the iTunes App Store for free. Verbally Premium is available on the iTunes App Store for $99.

## Speech Journal

Ever wish you could pair your own photos and your child's verbal descriptions in a simple, easy process? Mobile Education's Speech Journal App allows you to do just that. With an I Pad, you can either take a photo or use one that has been saved to the camera library. Just a few examples of how these customized, highly motivating images can then be used would be sequencing, expressive language exercises, providing directions and explaining procedures, use of appropriate volume and prosody. As with all the other terrific Mobile Education Apps, this one lets you record and play back the child's responses, so that you can point out just what was done correctly or just what needs to be improved.

Developed by Mobile Education Store, Speech Journal is available in the iTunes App Store for $3.99.

## The Happy Escape

## Escape From The Device-Filled Room)

Be sure to click "English" on both of them:

If you want to get more ideas on how to use these kinds of games with ELLs, be sure to check out the blog, Digital Play, by Graham Stanley and Kyle Mawer and their book of the same name

## Between the Lines Advanced HD

By Hamaguchi Apps for Speech, Language & Auditory Development

**Description**

Hamaguchi Apps for Speech, Language & Auditory Develop presents a groundbreaking app for the iPad designed for adolescents and adults who would benefit from practice interpreting vocal intonation, facial expressions, body language, and idiomatic or slang expressions. Using real photographs, voices and short mini-video clips of a variety of social situations and expressions, this app



provides a dynamic way to help learn and understand the messages that are "between the

lines" and simply can't be replicated with worksheets and static flashcards. American language and body language is used.

For more information, watch a demo of this app on YouTube:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7uV5kMSjko&feature=plcp



For easier tasks, geared towards a slightly younger audience, check out Between the Lines Level 1 and Level 2 apps, also in the App store!

This app includes 65-75 tasks within each of the three activities. There are three distinct activities in this app:

1. Listening: The user hears a voice speak a sentence, e.g., "What did you DO?!" (Often the same phrase is heard spoken in several different ways throughout the activity, but with different emotion and inflection) The narrator asks, "Who said it?" The user is shown a series of photographs. The user touches the correct facial expression that matches the voice.

2. Body Language: A very short video-clip is shown that depicts an interaction or situation. For example, one teacher makes small talk then asks her colleague, "How is your day going so far?" The other teacher responds with body language only, suggesting "Eh…not bad, not good, just so-so." The camera closes in this actor and says, "What is she thinking?" The user's task is to look at the choices of responses and select the one that matches the facial expression/body language.

3. Expressions: A very short video-clip is shown that depicts an actor speaking a sentence that contains an idiomatic or slang expression, e.g., "I want to convince my dad to let me go, but I think I have my word 'cut out for me'." The user is then asked, "What does that mean?"A list of slightly cruder slang terms (e.g., "This is BS", "He's not the sharpest tool in the shed") are no longer in the default settings but can be specifically added within the Activity setting.

The game can be played by up to 75 users or as a group. The percentage correct is reported for each user's performance on each of the three activities. Individual users can select their own settings; the group must have the same setting selections for the entire group.

Options included: Tracking progress (can be displayed or not) automatic advance or manual advance, choices can be automatically shown or manually displayed. Reward animations are provided at selected intervals for a welcome fun and break including Dunk Tank, Bull's Eye (darts), and Shoot the Basket.These are not games of skill-just a fun diversion.



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# READING

## Monkey Preschool Lunchbox
(THUP Games)

Monkey Preschool Lunchbox is a fun and engaging game that focuses on a variety of skills. This app provides the opportunity for students to match and count objects, select pictures that begin with a specified letter, put a puzzle together, identify objects that are different from the rest, and receptively identify shapes and colors.
On an intermittent basis, students are rewarded for completing these tasks by selecting a 'sticker.' This is a great app to utilize with a small group of students to practice turn taking, waiting, and following directions.
Monkey Preschool Lunchbox has great graphics and fun sound effects that will keep a variety of children entertained. **Monkey Preschool Lunchbox is marketed by** THUP Games **and is available in the** iTunes App Store **for $0.99**
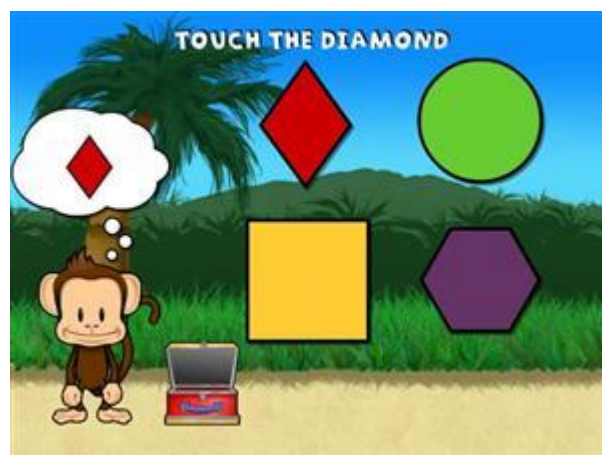
## ABC Pocket Phonics
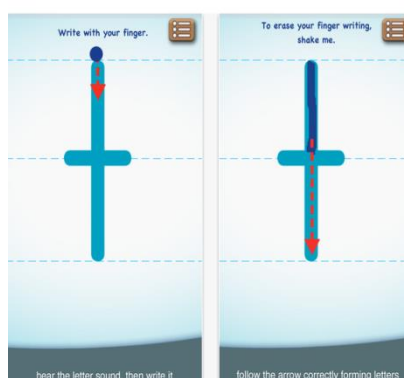
## ABC Alphabet Phonics

### Booksy

Booksy is a learning-to-read platform for young kids. It is designed from the ground up to help young children, Pre-K through 2nd grade, practice and develop their reading skills. This edition comes with two FREE books.



### Wordsearch



Word search HD it's so easy to use and minimalistic in its interface and approach, yet is stuffed full of word lists. Simply tapping or dragging a finger will highlight words, and there are three difficulty levels plus an online leaderboard. It's one of the simplest feature-filled word searches in the app store.

### Story Patch

**Story Patch** children can create a story with items that keep their attention and at the same time work on sentence structure and word meaning.



### RazKids



www.Raz-kids (Lazel, Inc) - students can read and record stories leveled from A-Z each day. Differentiate reading instruction with hundreds of animated leveled books. Students can: listen to books for modeled fluency, read books with pronunciation and vocabulary support and record their reading.

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**Starfall ABCs**

www.starfall.com

Who wouldn't want to learn their ABCs on the iPad? Starfall ABCs is a great app for emerging readers. It provides a fun and interactive way to reinforce letter recognition. It also reinforces letter/sound correspondence and provides an interactive phonics game at the end of each letter section. The images are clear and uncluttered, and the whole app is easy to navigate.

There is also a free computer version of this application that provides a wide variety of reading activities, word picture matching games and holiday related activities. My students love this website and app so much that when given the chance to earn to use the computer many of them will choose Starfall!

Starfall ABCs is produced by Starfall Education and available on the iTunes App Store for $2.99

**Picture cards**

http://www.dotolearn.com/picturecards/DailyLivingSkills/index.htm

**LanternFish**

http://bogglesworldesl.com/

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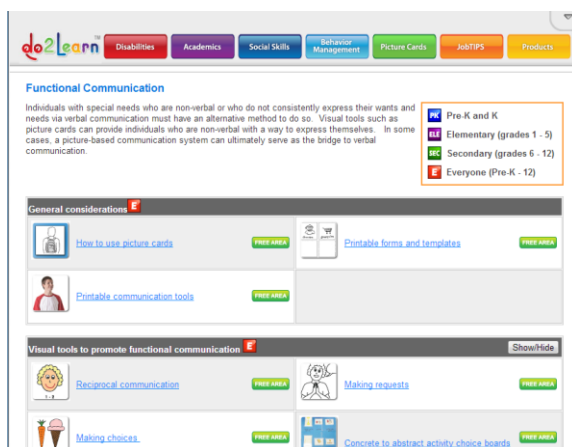
### DTT Letters

**Discrete Trial Training (DTT) Letters** is a great app to utilize while teaching receptive letter identification. DTT is the primary teaching method used in Applied Behavior Analysis to teach multiple skills to children with autism, so this is a great tool to support teaching. This app is customizable with the ability to choose correct and incorrect letter cards the child is learning, allowing the target letters to be randomized. Upper or lower case letters can be chosen, as well as a variety of fonts and styles. DTT Letters also allows the instructor to change the number of stimuli in a field and it offers pictures of the American Sign Language letters. One of the most helpful things about this app is that it has the ability to track and record student progress. This log provides individual student records broken down by date, shows the letters that were presented for each trial, and the number of cards in a field. The DTT Letters app is a great way to keep students motivated and engaged while learning their letters!

Autism/DTT Letters is marketed by drBrownsApps.com and is available in the iTunes App Store for $6.99.
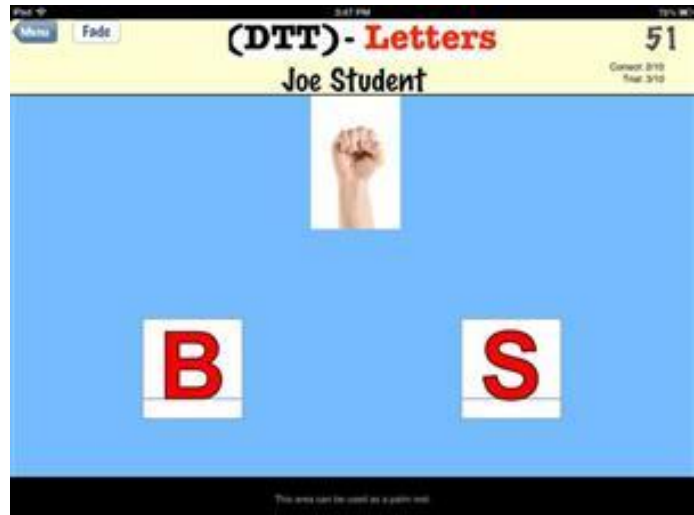
### Get Smart

**http://www.copacabana-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/Great_Sites/Great_Sites.html**
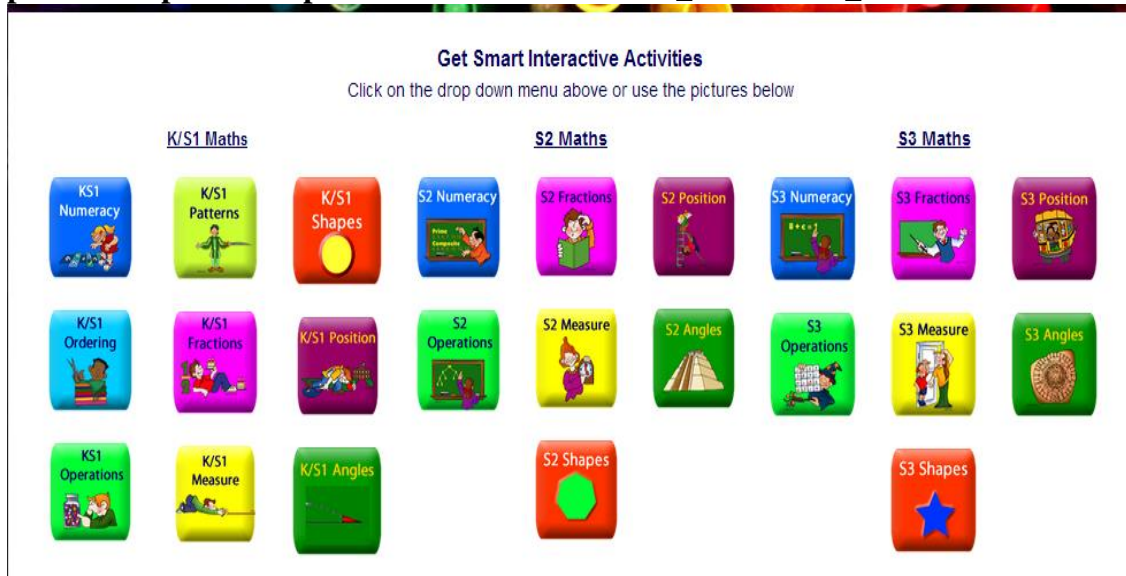
## Making Sequences

A great app for picture sequencing. It uses real photos but you have the ability to take your own photos (directly using the app, from your iPad's camera or your existing camera roll). There are 15 built in sequences with 3-5 pictures. By tapping on each photo, a text is read to you. You do have the ability in settings to turn the text on/off, turn the audio on/off or turn the numbers on/off for the pictures. You can "shuffle" the cards as many times as you like and when correct, the child receives a "great job" or a cheer. If incorrect, the child is told "try again."

By customizing your own sequences, you can use activities from a child's daily routine and make personalized sequences. For example, I've made customized sequences for: hatching baby chicks from eggs in the classroom, planting seeds in the greenhouse, making chocolate dipped pretzels in career education class, ordering lunch in the cafeteria, shopping at the grocery store. At home, sequences could be made with the child's own photo in his own room with familiar items (e.g., favourite teddy) perhaps for the bedtime routine. This app also allows you or the child to record his/her voice to narrate each picture. This is a great way to work on sentence formation including verb tenses, pronouns, etc.

Making Sequences is marketed by Zorten Software and is available in the iTunes App Store for $4.99.

## SymbolSupport

**Symbol Support** is an assistive word processor that automatically translates your text into symbols. This is especially helpful for students with autism as they tend to be visual learners. You can create new documents or copy & paste work from other apps into SymbolSupport and the program will convert them to symbols. The built-in image libraries that come with SymbolSupport are adequate for everything I've tried, but you can also add your own pictures using a built-in camera or via the Internet.

 SymbolSupport is a great resource for teachers and families with special needs learners. At $59.99, however, it may be too

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expensive to put on every iPad in a given classroom. To help with this problem, Attainment Company also markets a free SymbolSupport Viewer App. The Viewer allows users to receive, read, store, and print documents created by the full version of SymbolSupport. The free viewer cannot, however, create or edit documents.

SymbolSupport is marketed by Attainment Company and is available in the iTunes App Store for $59.99. The SymbolSupport Viewer is available free of charge in the iTunes App Store.

### Preposition Builder

Preposition Builder makes use of errorless teaching and applied behavior analysis methodologies to teach and evaluate understanding of prepositions.  Like other Mobile Education Store apps, Preposition Builder can keep track of progress of multiple students in a class. Prior to starting an exercise, the teacher (or student!) can choose which prepositions are being evaluated, and whether or not to record the student's voice reading each sentence. A series of short story animations can be unlocked with each completed section. This provides incentive for students to complete the exercises so that they can find out how the story ends. To provide documentation of student progress, Preposition Builder allows reports to be emailed to students or teachers. My only recommendation for future updates to this program would be the ability to email progress reports for ALL students (or perhaps an option to print?). Depending on the number of students in a class, it can become tedious sending individual records for each student.

Preposition builder is marketed by Mobile Education Store and is available in the iTunes App Store for $7.99

### QuestionIt

QuestionIt is a good app to teach discrimination of different question forms.  It has a number of activities, including sorting words by type of question they answer, answering questions about sentences, and answering questions about paragraphs. The app promotes errorless learning by using faded color cues; and collects data itself, which can be later emailed right from the app.  It also reinforcers the students with a firework display after every 5 correct answers.

QuestionIt is marketed by Language Learning Apps  and is available on the iTunes App Store for $24.99.

### Read2Go

To explain Read2Go, you must first understand what Bookshare is all about.  Bookshare.org provides electronic copies of books and periodicals for readers with print disabilities.   The books are downloaded in an electronic form that can be easily modified to meet the needs of readers with diverse disabilities.  This can mean altering font, size, color, and even using text-to-speech technology to provide read-aloud

capability. Bookshare is currently available free of charge for US students with qualifying disabilities thanks to a grant by the US Department of Education.

So what does all this have to do with Read2Go? Read2Go is an assistive technology book reader that uses text-to-speech technology to read-aloud books. Read2Go's integration with Bookshare and makes locating and downloading electronic textbooks easy, provided you have a qualifying Bookshare account.

Some educators complain about the robotic sound of the text-to-speech engine in Read2Go. Students on the autism spectrum, however, may prefer the computerized voice because of its monotone and steady pace.

Read2Go is marketed by Benetech, Inc and is available in the iTunes App Store for $19.99. Please note that you MUST have a Bookshare account to use Read2Go.


## Fun with Verbs and Sentences

## Description

If you loved our First Phrases and Picture the Sentence apps, you'll love this app too! Fun with Verbs & Sentences is the next step up for children who are learning to speak in sentences, understand past and present verb tensing, and formulate basic syntax structures. This app is developed for language ages 2-5 with eye-popping color drawings and 266 delightful animations--a cutting-edge way to show and teach action words! For a demonstration of this app, please check out our YouTube video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUcYWlJ27yw .
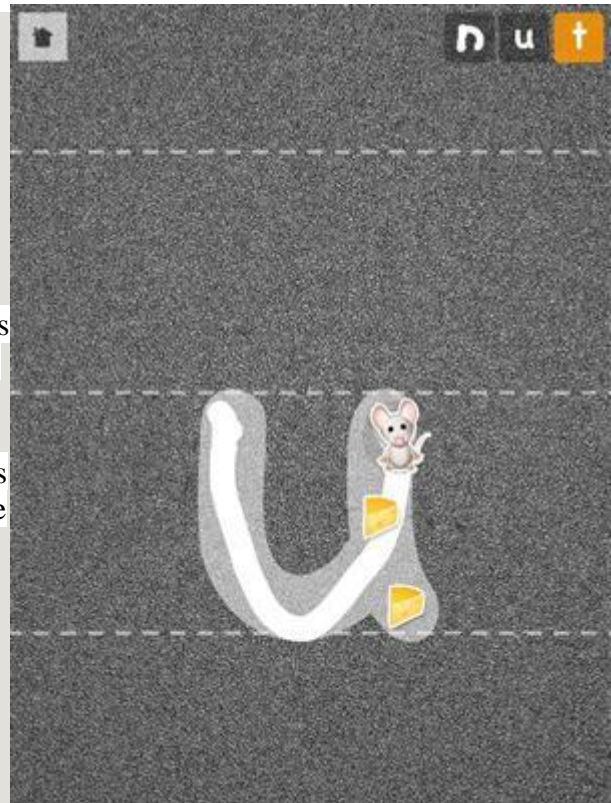
1) Choose your subject: There are three character choices in this app: a boy, a girl, and a bear.

2) Then choose your verb: The next step is choosing something for the girl to do. (There are always 3 picture choices, such as draw, jump, or eat). Let's choose "draw".

3) Choose your object or prepositional phrase: The last step is choosing something for the child to draw. (Choices for draw include: cat, spider, or cat).

4) The narrator now voices each part of the sentence slowly, as the circles flip around, one at a time, to reveal the associated pictures: "The girl…is drawing…a cat." Unless de-selected, the narrator will then model the sentence at a quicker speaking pace, "The girl is drawing a cat." The child is complimented for the sentence and then instructed, "After the video, it will be YOUR turn to say the sentence."

5) The animation that shows the sentence that was created (i.e., "The girl is drawing a cat") is now shown, typically with a sound effect. If the verb is present tense, (which is the default) it snaps back and loops continually, without sound.

6) The child is asked, "What is happening? Tell me the whole sentence." The circles below can be tapped to show the associated pictures or tapped again to hear the associated audio. The child taps "Record" and tries to formulate the target sentence, then touches "Stop".

The child listens to the target phrase by touching a "Check" button that pops up, and compares to his own recording. If used in therapy, the data tracking features on the left can be used. (This can be de-selected within the settings if no desired)

7) A reward game can be played at desired intervals, the "Pop It!" Game. The child touches bubbles on a screen until a selected "prize" is found

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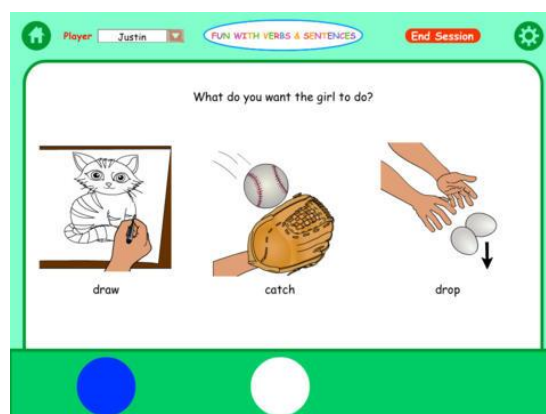
# WRITING

## Little Writer PRO



Little Writer PRO is an en excellent pre-handwriting tool. This app teaches proper formation techniques for upper and lower case letters and numbers and shapes. It also provides exercises for users to trace individual letters to create simple words and offers corresponding sounds with the letters. Little Writer provides a starting point in the form of a picture and prompts the user to trace the letter, number, etc. following a pattern of other pictures. If the formation is incorrect or does not stay within guidelines, it will prompt the user to start over. When tracing is completed correctly, the app will provide positive verbal reinforcement. Little Writer is completely customizable and allows the user to select the order (random or sequential) or change the formation pattern of letters and numbers, and choose the difficulty level. This app serves as a great tool for motivation and keeps students engaged with its fun pictures and backgrounds. The music and sounds alone are a lot of fun! Little Writer PRO is marketed by Alligator Apps and is available for $1.99 on the iTunes App Store. A FREE version of Little Writer is also available.

## Comic Life
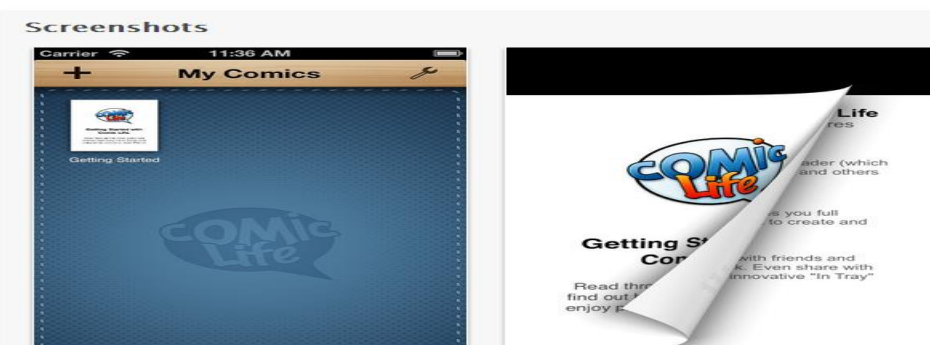


Everything you need at your fingertips: speech balloons, photo filters, comic lettering, templates, shapes, shadows and effects.

## Explain Everything



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## Pic Collage
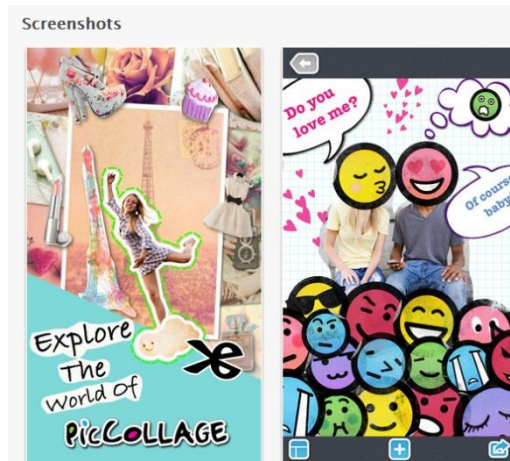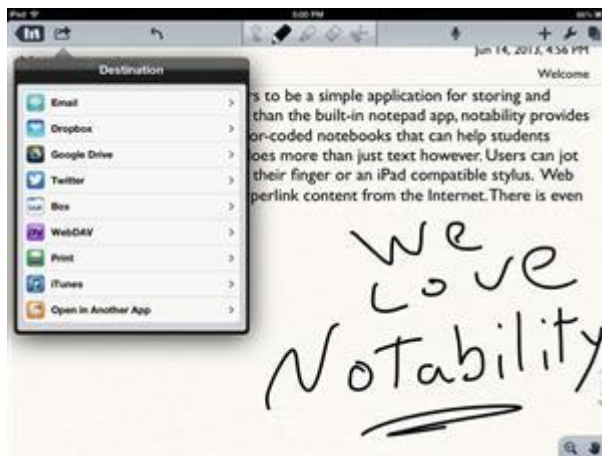


## Notability



On the surface, Notability appears to be a simple application for storing and organizing notes. More powerful than the built-in notepad app, Notability provides the ability to create separate color-coded notebooks that can help students organize their work. Notability does more than just text, however. Users can jot down drawings and figures using their finger, or an iPad-compatible stylus. Web clipping allows the addition of hyperlinked content from the Internet. There is even a built-in audio recorder to capture spoken notes.

Sharing content from Notability is easy but powerful. Notescan be shared by E-Mail, Dropbox,Google Drive, Twitter, and more. One of my favourite features, however, is the ability to sync notebooks with several cloud services including Drop box and Google Drive. This provides a means for backup of data, and also the ability to open and edit notebooks from a computer. (Ginger Labs)

## Storybird
http://storybird.com/

## Toontastic

Making cartoons with Toontastic is as easy as putting on a puppet show - 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.

Toontastic is a cartoon building app that allows students to create their own cartoons. It is a great way to foster creativity, as well as visually teach students about story elements (characters, setting, conflict, resolut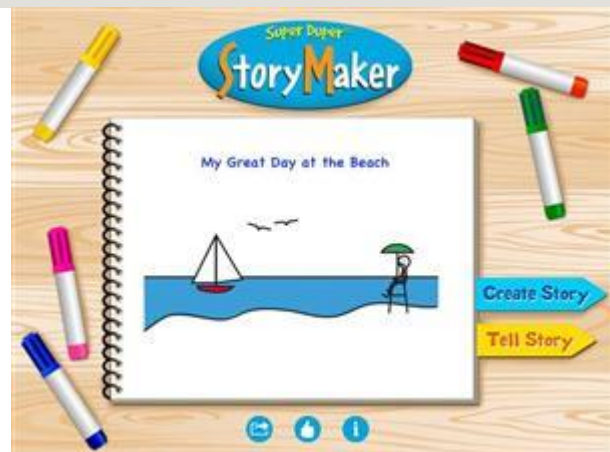ion, etc.). Toontastic is extremely user friendly and gives auditory and visual cues to help the user choose settings and characters and then animate, and tell their stories. The free app is limited in some background and character choices; however the user may draw their own backgrounds and characters to use in current and future projects. Many of my students enjoy this app so much, that they "earn" to create their own cartoons.

Toontastic is marketed by Launchpad Toys and is available free on the iTunes App Store (in-app purchases are available for addtional content). Toontastic: All Access is available on the iTunes App Store for $9.99 and includes all available Toontastic options.


## Super Duper Story Maker

Anyone who appreciates a good narrative or who would just like to assist their child in describing their experiences or making up a story will appreciate The Super Duper Story Maker Application. When creating a story with this app you can choose from over 800 images that are in various categories, such as people, places, animals, transportation and time. You can add personal photos from your camera roll to your story. Budding artists can add their own drawings. Now let's add some dialogue or description either through writing, typing or recording. The app then turns your pages just like a book as you listen to and view your creation. I can have students work on vocabulary, sentence making, grammar, story elements and problem-solving while using this app and at the end I have something I can print or share by e-mail.

Super Duper Story Maker is marketed by Super Duper Publications and is available in the iTunes App Store for $4.99. There is also a free version available for evaluation purposes.

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### Spell Grid

**Spell Grid** (Adrian Georgescu) -  and other interactive spelling games; great for when they have finished their daily spelling activity, sight words list (Dolch list)

### Spelling Test

**Spelling Test** (Seventh Sense LLC) – create own spelling tests.

### Evernote

**Evernote** - photograph the students work samples, record their reading and keep assessment folders. This is also great to share at parent/teacher interviews.

### Learning with Puzzles

**Learning with puzzles** (Soumya Mohapatra)- Children build vocabulary as they drag jigsaw pieces to solve a puzzle. Can put photos of familiar objects including people's faces to build custom puzzles.

### Clicker Docs
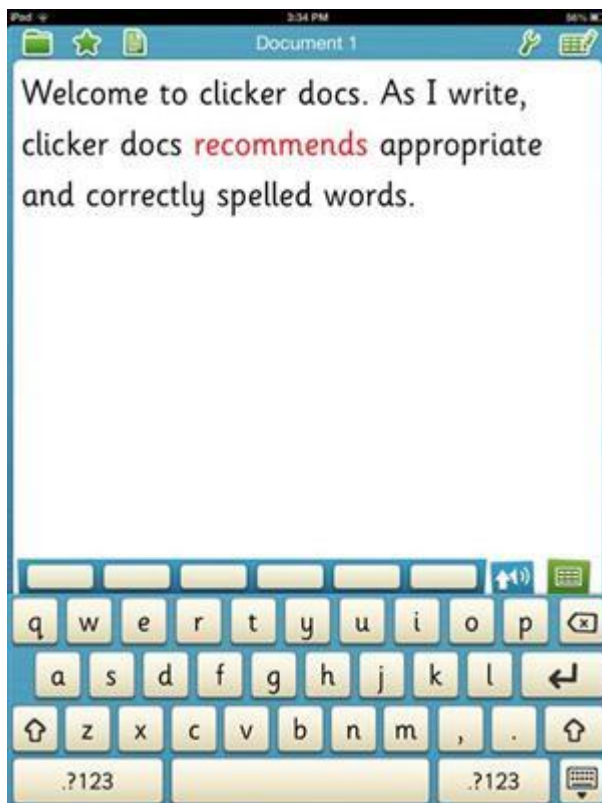
The Clicker Docs application is an assistive word processor that can support students with a variety of disabilities. It uses word prediction technology to support students with correctly spelled and grammatically correct suggestions. Synthesized speech allows students to review their work by listening for auditory cues. Word banks can be set up to provide students with advanced vocabulary to support their writing. Finally, Clicker Docs integrates with DropBox to provide secure cloud storage and document sharing.

Clicker Docs is marketed by Crick Software and is available on the iTunes App Store for $24.99

### Abilipad

Abilipad is an easy-to-use word processor designed to support students with a variety of learning disabilities.  Abilipad has all of the common features that you would expect in a tablet-based word processor.  In addtion, Abilipad provides predictive text input, allowing

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users to type with fewer keystrokes and greater accuracy.  Another important feature of this app is the ability to modify and customize the on-screen keyboard(s). Examples of this include color coding of keys, removal of punctuation, or providing limited vocabulary words.  A built-in text-to-speech engine provides auditory feedback, allowing users to hear what they have written.

On the surface, Abilipad appears to be a simple word processor, but the built-in assistive technoloogy features make it a valuable asset for students with autism and other special needs.
Abilipad is marketed by Cheryl Bregman and is available in the iTunes App Store for $19.99.

### Preposition Remix

Preposition Remix has 20 of the most common prepositions (10 examples of each) and it's customizable so that the students can work on one at a time or all 20. The benefit of this is that they can learn them in isolation and then randomization. They also present them in a different order every time and the pictures are great.
Developed by Smarty Ears, the Preposition Remix App is available in the iTunes App Store for $9.99.

### Rainbow Sentences

Whenever one activity provides the opportunity to work on multiple goals, I am thrilled. Therefore, as a speech-language pathologist working to address a wide variety of goals with my students, I was delighted to have found the Rainbow Sentences App. The developer's site states that this app "is designed to help students improve their ability to construct grammatically correct sentences by using color coded visual cues". But it does so much more. It uses interesting pictures that students enjoy describing and discussing. It reinforces the importance of all those little niceties of language like using articles, conjunctions, prepositions and verb tenses. It provides opportunities to work on "WH" questions. The settings feature provides so many ways to customize support to individual students. My favorite aspect of this app is the "record" feature. Hearing their own verbal production of the sentence is fun for the student and one of the most meaningful ways to point out what they did well and what could have been done better.
Rainbow Sentences was developed the Mobile Education Store and is available on the iTunes App Store for $9.99.

### Cursive Writing Wizard

Cursive Writing Wizard teaches the fundamentals of cursive writing. After a letter is traced, colorful graphics light up if its correct.


Fun Letter Tracing !
kid
Add Your Own Words

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## VOCABULARY

### Kitty Words

Kitty Words City (Kittypad) – improves both English and Chinese vocabulary.

### Sight Words

http://www.mrsperkins.com/dolch.ht
m

1. **All Dolch Words** On One Page
   All 220 words and 95 nouns
   220 words, alphabetical, by grade
   220 words by frequency, by grade
   220 words by frequency (combined)
   95 common nouns

2. Dolch **Pre-Primer** Vocabulary Word List
   Dolch Pre-Primer Flash Cards (cut apart - 6 per page)
   Dolch Pre-Primer Word List in a PowerPoint 97 Show
   (use your classroom computer to flash the words at 4 second intervals)

3. Dolch **Primer** Vocabulary Word List
   Dolch Primer Flash Cards (cut apart - 6 per page)
   Dolch Primer Word List in a PowerPoint 97 Show
   (use your classroom computer to flash the words at 4 second intervals)

4. Dolch **1st Grade** Vocabulary Word List
   Dolch 1st Grade Flash Cards (cut apart - 6 per page)
   Dolch 1st Grade Word List in a PowerPoint 97 Show
   (use your classroom computer to flash the words at 4 second intervals)

5. Dolch **2nd Grade** Vocabulary Word List
   Dolch 2nd Grade Flash Cards (cut apart - 6 per page)
   Dolch 2nd Grade Word List in a PowerPoint 97 Show
   (use your classroom computer to flash the words at 4 second intervals)

### Learning Chocolate

6. Dolch **3rd Grade** Vocabulary Word List
   Dolch 3rd Grade Flash Cards (cut apart - 6 per page)
   Dolch 3rd Grade Word List in a PowerPoint 97 Show
   (use your classroom computer to flash the words at 4 second intervals)

http://www.learningchocolate.com/

### BrainPOP

The BrainPOP app provides a mobile interface for accessing animated videos and related content that is also available at www.brainpop.com. The app features access to a limited number of free movies and requires a paid subscription to unlock more than 750 educational topics. BrainPOP animations are accurate, engaging, and fun to watch. Check with your school to see if they have a subscription that includes home use. If they do, you can use the school subscription to log in and access all available content.

You might not think of BrainPOP (and BrainPOP Jr.) as apps that support students with special needs. At TCI, however, we have seen great successes
using BrainPOP animations with students on the autism spectrum. In a recent case study conducted at TCI, it was noted that students with autism identify with
the robot character named Moby. Despite his limited ability to communicate, Moby plays an integral role in each animation. BrainPOP movies are so engaging
that students voluntarily choose to watch them whenever they have a free moment.
The BrainPOP and BrainPOP Jr. Apps are available for free in the iTunes App Store.

## Vocabulary Games
http://www.vocabulary.co.il/



## Sight Words



http://www.msrossbec.com/sightwords.shtml
http://www.copacabana-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/Great_Sites/Great_Sites.html

## Story Sequencing

http://www.iboard.co.uk/

http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html#tbmenu

http://www.funbrain.com/funbrain/cgi-bin/wt.cgi?A1=s

## Dictionary.com
This app is more than an easy to use dictionary. The app also provides a thesaurus and an audio pronunciation guide.

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# BEHAVIOR & ADAPTATION

### InClass

The InClass app consolidates all your class schedules, homework deadlines, and so on. It acts as both a personal assistant and a glorified timetable. The interface is a little simplistic but it lets you take notes by typing or recording audio or video. A similar app for Android is the Studious app.

### 2DO

There are lots of things to like about 2Do. You can use it to manage simple reminders and checklists, as well as larger projects. 2Do also lets you organize tasks by color -- an important feature for visually oriented ADHDers.

The 2Do app is easy to use. It features a clear tab system along the left-hand side that allows you to create and color-code lists to organize your tasks by context -- home, office, errands -- or by project. Each task in your 2Do list is sortable by priorities, due dates, notes, an embedded audio note, and/or photo. You can also add actions to your tasks that link to your contacts, allowing you to call, e-mail, or text directly from the app. One practical feature for ADHDers is being able to defer tasks you didn't get done to a future date -- something, I admit, I have used a lot.

### 30/30

A client of mine told me that 30/30 is one of his favorite ADHD apps, so I put it through its paces. I love it, too. The app allows you to set sequential countdown timers to walk you through your day's tasks. I've been using 30/30 for a few weeks now, and I find it very helpful. Taking a few minutes each morning to set up my day in 30/30 takes the guesswork out of what I need to do next. The app has also made me keenly aware of how I -- probably like you -- underestimate how long it will take to do things. 30/30's gesture-based controls make it a snap to use.

### TeuxDeux

This may be my favorite time-management app. TeuxDeux is a clear and simple task manager that reminds me of my old week-at-a-glance calendar that I left behind years ago. The app gives you a view of five days at a time, where you can assign tasks a completion date. There's room at the bottom of the screen to list tasks by project. What I like best about TeuxDeux is that you can access your account through your Web browser, and it syncs to your iPhone app. If you have an Android phone or device, you can access TeuxDeux on your browser. As much as I love my iPhone, I find the daily managing of my to-do list on it a bit tedious. I prefer the big screen of my laptop. Yet the updated tasks are on my phone for those many times when I break away from my desk and my computer.

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## First Then Visual Scheduler HD

We have tried a number of apps that provide activity schedules to support students on the autism spectrum. The First Then Visual Scheduler HD (FTVS HD) is by far one of the best and most flexible apps that we have found. Creating an activity schedule with FTVS HD is as easy but powerful. The app includes a diverse library of stock images and users also have the ability to Google image search and/or the built-in camera. Audio prompts and video models can also be included in each step of the schedule. Flexibility is a key feature of FTVS HD. Schedules can be displayed and used by students in several formats on the iPad including single image, two images at a time, scrollable checklist, and two drag and drop formats. This enables users to select and work in the format that they prefer.

Import and export features add to the flexibility of this app by allowing educators to share and print schedules as PDF documents. Users can also share schedules with other iPads running FTVS HD. This makes it convenient for educators to share schedules with other students as well as sending schedules to parents for use at home. Finally, the service and support offered by Good Karma Applications is excellent. They respond quickly to requests and have a variety of educational resources available on their website. FTVS HD is marketed by Good Karma Applications and is available in the iTunes App Store for $9.99.

## Social Adventures

Social Adventures is an application designed to provide educators and parents all the tools they need to facilitate effective social cognition groups or to support kids with autism and related social challenges in the classroom, home and community. Kids can learn important social skills presented on Social Adventures in seven key areas: Initiating social contact; maintaining conversations; advocating and compromising; getting regulated; interpreting non-verbal skills; negotiating space; and experiencing humor. For example, under the "advocating and compromising" category, kids can learn how to politely say "no" to a friend's idea. Kids will also practice following directions, listening skills, self-awareness, making wise decisions, and more. I also find it to be very helpful that the developers created an eight-week program that educators can use to help for future planning. It is a very user friendly application that keeps the kids motivated due to its cartoon like graphics and games. It is a powerful tool to

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help kids become more comfortable socially through simple interactive lessons and fun games.

Social Adventures is marketed by all4mychild and available in the iTunes App Store for $9.99.

### The Social Express

Social Express is a great educational supplemental activity for the Middle School's new social skills curriculum: Social Thinking by Michelle Garcia Winner. It features middle school-aged children experiencing various age-appropriate social situations. There is a direct correlation with the curriculum. The language and terminology is easy to understand. This app really bridges the gap between what is being discussed in class and applying the skills in a fun, exciting way.

The Social Express is marketed by The Language Express and is available on the Apple iTunes Store for $89.99.

### Video Scheduler

Video scheduler is a cross between an activity schedule and a video modeling application. Like most activity schedule applications, the Video Scheduler allows you to create checklists identifying the individual tasks required to accomplish a specific goal or objective. What sets the Video Schedule apart, however, is the fact that users have the option to record a brief segment of video demonstrating how the task is completed. Still photos can also be used instead of video.

There is a wealth of research supporting the use of both activity schedules and video models to support students with autism. The Video scheduler combines these two proven methodologies into a simple but powerful mobile platform. At TCI, Video Scheduler is being used to provide support for students working at community-based job sites. As an example, students working in a restaurant may use the Video Scheduler to guide them through the steps of refilling spice jars. At each step in the task analysis, a still photo or video is available to show the student exactly what is expected. Using Video Scheduler, these students can begin to work independently with little or no prompting from job coaches.

Video Scheduler is marketed by Look2Learn and is available in the iTunes App Store for $12.99

### iReward

Anyone how has worked in the field of special education has probably seen student earning charts designed to capture student interest. These teacher-created charts sometimes feature stick-on Velcro pictures or whiteboard checklists. While they are highly motivating and effective, traditional earning charts are also stigmatizing. There is no mistaking that the student carrying the chart to class is "different" from the rest of the students. iReward changes all that. Using an iPod, iPad, or iPhone, teachers can setup a variety of different earning charts for one student, or many students. Gone are the days of laminating and cutting out photos to attach to an earning chart. With iReward, educators simply use the internal camera or Google Image search to find an appropriate image. What sets iReward apart from traditional earning charts is the fact that it is not as stigmatizing. Students carrying portable

electronic devices look very much like any other student.  The small screen of an iPod or iPhone makes it easy to record student progress discretely.

iReward is developed by Grembe Inc. and is available in the iTunes App Store for $4.99

## Time Timer

The Time Timer application provides a visual representation of the time remaining on a timer using an iPod or iPad screen.  This provides a meaningful representation of the time that is easily recognizable for our students on the autism spectrum.  This unique visual timer can be set for hours, minutes, and seconds remaining and even offers the option to automatically repeat the timer.  Students find the Time Timer useful for planning their transitions and timing their breaks.  Staff enjoy using the "repeat" function to prompt them when collecting interval data.

Time Timer is produced by Time Timer LLC and available on the Apple App store in both iPod ($1.99) and iPad ($6.99) versions.

## Chore Pad and Chore Pad HD

At its core, Chore Pad serves as a virtual chore chart that can accommodate to-do lists for several students. The user interface is well organized and intuitive, which makes it easy to setup a list of tasks for a student to complete. At TCI, we use Chore Pad to set up daily activity schedules that students can reference while completing daily tasks. Because student schedules sometimes change, Chore Pad allows users to "drag and drop" tasks to reorder the task list.

Chore Pad also serves as a reward system, allowing teachers to assign a point value to each task and keeping track of the points that students earn each day. A built-in payout system lets students "cash out" their points in exchange for a teacher-define menu of options.

In the field of special education, Chore Pad serves as an activity schedule and reinforcement system. These are both functions that can be done using traditional methods without technology. Chore Pad, however, is more age-appropriate for older students and can be much less stigmatizing than traditional reward charts.

Chore Pad is developed by Nannek and available in the iTunes App Store in both iPod and iPad (HD) versions for $2.99 and $4.99. A free "lite" version is also available.

## Behavior Tracker Pro

We all know how important data is when intervening with problem behaviors. We all also know how difficult it can be to accurately and consistently track data. Behavior Tracker Pro (BTP) might be a solution to a lot of data difficulties. With BTP, parents and professionals can take a variety of data on multiple behaviors of multiple individuals. BTP also offers a graphing feature with the option to send that graph via email. BTP also offers a solution to the problem of data collection in the community. Traditionally, community data collection required clipboards, timers, and multiple papers. This was always difficult for the parent and professional and stigmatizing for the individual. BTP can be used on multiple devices such as the iPhone, iPad, or iTouch; limiting the stigmatizing effect.

Developed by Marz Consulting Inc, Behavior Tracker Pro 3.2.5 is available in the iTunes App Store for $29.99.

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### Sosh

The Sosh application is filled with activities and tools that help children and adults that have difficulty with social skills. The application is divided into five sections including Relate (connect with others), Relax (reduce stress), Regulate (manage behaviors), Reason (think it through), and Recognize (understand feelings). This app provides many of the tools used in cognitive and behavioral therapy and provides students with an opportunity to work independently to resolve their challenges. Some examples of tools available on the Sosh application include "The Shredder," that allows individuals to symbolically shred negative thoughts. The "Deep Breathing," tool on the Sosh app leads individuals in a guided session of deep breathing.

At $39, Sosh is more expensive than most apps, but the developers offer a full-featured 7-day trial of the application called Sosh Lite. (by Drs. Mark & Kelly Bowers)

### ChoiceMap

ChoiseMap is really easy to use. Enter a decision you want to make – such as where to go for lunch – and then list the choices you're considering. This free iOS app lets you rate how each of a range of factors would be met by the competing choices, then boils the data down to a bar graph.

### Decide Now

Decide Now makes choices for you at random by arranging the possibilities on a wheel of fortune.

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# SOCIAL STUDIES

## Touchable Earth

Touchable Earth is the winner of a United Nations award for innovation in teaching young students about culture.  Touchable Earth is the first dedicated Global Citizenship app for kids.  Touchable Earth helps kids 9 to 11 learn about various world cultures. Users click on an area of the world they want to learn about, and short videos popup of children sharing information about the food they eat, the games they play, and what school is like.  Touchable Earth is marketed by Touchable Earth LTC and is available FREE on the iTunes App Store.



## History Today



One app that I use almost daily in my World History classes is HISTORY TODAY. This app gives my students access to different events, births, deaths, and holidays that occur on any specific date throughout history. This app allows the students to find events that happened in both recent times and in the past.  Students can then pair events with content that they are currently studying. In addition, this app enables students to learn birthdays of their favourite actors or musicians, as well as deaths of historically significant people like presidents or generals.

Another subtopic that his application offers is different holidays around the world. Such

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holidays include feast days of Saints as well as national, international, and religious days of celebration and observance. This app is a great resource for our population at TCI because it allows our students to become more aware of national and worldwide cultural events and customs.

Every day, each student has the option to choose one event and read it to the class. Next, the student selects a birth, death, or holiday that occurs on the said date and reads that to the class. Once each student has finished reading a selected event, birth, death, or holiday, I elaborate on the event and correlate it to real-life situations that pertain to my class.  On a cautionary note, I preview each event and birth/death before we use this app because occasionally there is an event or birthday that is not school appropriate. On those days we engage in a different warm-up exercise. This application compliments our weekly current events lesson by tying events in the past to what is happening now.

History Today is marketed by Joe Sriver and is available FREE on the iTunes App Store.

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## MarcoPolo Ocean

MarcoPolo Ocean aims to teach science and math skills to kids 5 or younger while they explore the sea, make dolphins jump, or build coral reefs. Kids make dolphins jump, build a coral reef, explore the deep sea, and create their own aquarium. These are just some of the fun things you can do with MarcoPolo Ocean, a "digital sandbox" for kids to play in that sparks their interest in the most unexplored part of our planet – the ocean.

Build and Explore

Five build-and-play activities bring the language and the images of the ocean to life. Ocean is playfully narrated and animated to reinforce vocabulary, physical attributes and ocean concepts.

- Coral Reef
- Marine Mammals
- Fish
- Boat
- Submersible

Free Play Exploration

The open ocean is a personal aquarium your child can explore however he or she chooses!

- Explore from the shoreline all the way down to the sea floor
- Steer your submersible and boat through ocean waters
- Add marine animals and fish to the ocean and interact with more than 30 different species

Investigate by tapping, dragging and swiping where the animals live in the ocean to see their natural behaviors and how they interact with other animals

Through self-directed discovery, we expose kids to early skills in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), focusing on the following concepts:

- The wide variety of animal species that live in the shallow and deep parts of the ocean
- Ocean landscape
- Construction and characteristics of a boat (shipping vessel) and submersible
- Characteristics of fish and marine mammals
- Topic-specific vocabulary exposure and acquisition

## Lightbot Jr.

Lightbot Jr. gives kids 4 to 8 a jump start on computer programming as they guide a robot using puzzle -solving skills and learn to debug problems and issue simple instruction. This also works with EAL and ELL students as they acquire English. There is a higher level version of this called Lightbot. Lightbot Junior is specifically designed for ages 4-8, and is an easier version of the popular Lightbot: featuring a gentler learning curve and not-too-complex puzzles. You can play as Boybot or Girlbot as you solve puzzles that use game mechanics that are based on Computer Science ideas; Lightbot Junior lets players gain a practical understanding of basic concepts like writing instructions,

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debugging problems, simple procedures and loops, just by guiding a robot with commands to light up tiles and solve levels.

Parents and teachers around the world are choosing to use Lightbot first when introducing their kids and students to programming, coding and Computer Science. Lightbot is published by LightBot Inc. and is available in the iTunes App Store for $2.99.



### Dollars & Cents

Dollars & Cents from Attainment Company stands out as one of the best coin counting and money recognition apps.  Dollars & Cents provides a clean and simple interface for students with autism to learn coin recognition, spending money, and making change.
In the Counting Coins section, students can practice coin recognition, sorting, matching, and even practice using a pretend vending machine.  In Spending Money section, students are presented with a list of items to shop for. Once selected, the student must identify the proper amount of money to give the cashier. Finally, the Making Change section provides an opportunity for students to practice counting money and making change as if they were running a cash register.
Dollars & Cents supports multiple user names, so an entire class can share a single iPad. The Options menu allows teachers to manage users and customize a plethora of settings that control the students' experience.
Dollars & Cents is marketed by Attainment Company and is available in the iTunes App Store for $39.99.

### Quick Graph & graphing Calculator

These are apps that make tricky math concepts easier to understand. Enter an equation and the app displays a 2D or 3D graph.

## APPS (and more) FOR EDUCATORS ABOUT CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

### Geert Hofestede

**CultureGPS** (sales-genetics) – There are two versions of this, Lite and Professional.  These are complete applications of Geert Hofestede's theories of cultural dynamics on multiple dimensions and allow you to examine aspects of the culture in relation to your own or other cultures.

**Compare Cultures** (Kwintessential) – simplified application based on Hofestede's work for comparing cultures.

### Comparing Cultures

**Test My CI** (Richard Bruderick) – compare cultural differences in game format. Compares Cultural Intelligence (CI) of various countries/cultures.

**World Customs & Culture** (Hooked in Motion)

### Sign Language

**Sign4Me** (Vcom3D) – Learn ASL signs and use signs for communicating with children or adults who use ASL.

## General

### Basics

We love the App Store. We love the bells and whistles that so many apps have built into them. But we should not forget the usefulness of the built-in features of the IPad. The camera feature of the iPad and iPhone may seem simple and basic, but offers the possibility of many different uses. It's great to be able to take a picture and immediately be able to display and use that image on the screen. Taking photos and having them available on the camera roll is perfect for personalizing and customizing so many other apps. The video feature allows for the creation of a permanent record. This record could serve as a model or to trace development over time of communication skills. Students enjoy being the photographer and having the opportunity to take pictures of what is meaningful to them.

### YouTube

I've also been collecting useful YouTube videos that support instruction in language and culture. Here are some that support pronunciation and intonation issues for EL students.

- English rhythmic Feet Fight Club 1, 2 etc. by Haptickid
- Tasty ways to master difficult sounds by TOEFLtv
- Communicative Language Teaching Activity by cecyspice
- Culture Shock – International Students in the United states by sbotchev
- Just for Laughs – Culture Shock

Additionally, Geertz Hofestede has some great videos on YouTube.

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