Recommended iPad Apps for Preschool and Early Years

If you've looked in the iPad App Store you'll know that there's a bewildering array of apps available. This list attempts to identify a few tried and tested ones that work in early years settings. The list is mainly about identifying core, open ended, creative, productivity apps

A shaded background in the description column indicates what we consider to be the core apps for this particular area. If there is a white background these apps are nice to have.

In addition to the apps listed here there are, of course, thousands that are great for supporting discrete aspects of learning. A great place to begin looking for such apps is apps4primaryschools.co.uk, but you'll find plenty of other places. Another useful site is graphite.org, particularly if you'd like to see a quality review of an app. But don't get carried away – you'll fill up your iPad.

All of the apps listed are available in the Apple Apps store (for iPad, iPod and iPhone). A select few are also available as Android apps from the Google Play Store. Where Android versions are not available you'll be able to find similar apps by typing in the title of the iOS app.

Don't forget that Apple's volume purchasing agreement means that once you buy 20 copies of most apps the price drops by half. For more information on anything below, click on the app icon and you'll be taken to the iStore where you can read the official blurb and, if you're on an iPad / iPod / iPhone, download the app.
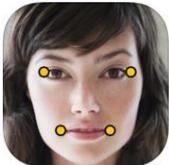
Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Physical Development

Communication and Language

Literacy

	Book Creator (£3.99 [free version not good enough]**)** GET IT ON Google play A fantastic app for primary and EYFS use. Children can easily create and share (via iBooks) a simple or much more complex book which immediately looks professional. Multimedia elements can be included easily. Comic style books can also be created. Sharing options are great (including as a video) and as an added bonus you can combine books.
	Green Screen (£2.29) A really easy to use green screen app. Green screening involves filming against a green background which is then removed and replaced with something else (moving or still) placing the subject of your film anywhere. This app looks very much like iMovie and is therefore easy to get to grips with.
	Puppet Pals HD Director's Pass (£3.99 – free version seriously limited**)** A great tool for creating 2D animations. Children place characters or themselves into situations using backgrounds in the app or captured using the camera. They then act out their scene with speech all of which is recorded. There is a free version of this app but it's far too limiting and should be avoided.
	Shadow Puppet Edu (free) Great for developing talking for writing. Take a series of photos, get them into the right order then record a narration to tell your story and create a video. Great for a recount of a well-known tale or for original work. (Has nothing to do with shadows, puppets or rabbits!)

	My Story Book Creator School Edition (£3.99) A really simple book creator. Similar to Book Creator but not as fully featured.
	Morfo 3D Face Booth (£0.79) Animate any photograph. Make the eyes and mouth move and record speech to make your character talk. Finished products can be saved to the camera roll and then imported into other video projects etc. Great for brining historical characters to life by making them speak. Consider uploading finished files then using an augmented reality app (see Aurasma) to add an extra dimension to class displays. Free version doesn't save.
	Pocket Phonics (£1.99) PocketPhonics is used in primary schools and pre-schools to teach kids letter sounds, first words and handwriting.
	DotToDot numbers & letters (£1.49) Dot-to-dots are a great way to develop children's number recognition and counting skills.
	Twinkl Phonics (£4.99) Various packages are available (including some free tasters) of these resources from Twinkl. Full range of Twinkl apps here: http://www.twinkl.co.uk/page/twinkl-apps
	Collins Big Cat: The Steam Train (+ Many others) Story Creator – (free) Children have several options: have the story read to them, read the story themselves, adapt the images to create their own story. They can write their own text or record their narrative.

Mathematics

	Number Bonds (£0.69) A fun way to learn number bonds.
	Hickory Dickory Dock (£0.79) The app uses rhyming poetry to help teach young children the numbers 1-12 and their position on the clock.
	Hungry Fish (£2.29) Feed your fish and play with numbers. Practice mental addition and subtraction. Teachers can get all the levels of this game, plus student progress data, by signing up for an account at motionmathgames.com.
	Little Digits (£2.99) A fun educational app that teaches children about numbers by putting a new spin on finger counting. It displays number characters by detecting how many fingers you put down. There are also games that introduce small addition and subtraction calculations, where you can work out the answer using the same multi-touch finger detection.

Understanding the World

	Animal Sounds (free) This app provides a set of flashcards with good quality images and sounds. It provides a multisensory learning tool for young children or those with special needs.
	Zookazam (£0.79) An amazing app that's recently been improved immensely (iOS version). It uses augmented reality to bring a whole range of animals into your own environment. They are presented in fantastic detail and are animated. A great trigger for conversation and learning (there are more spoken details in the app too. Amazing value!
	Rounds: Franklin Frog (£2.99) This app is an interactive journey through the life cycle of a frog.
	Bee-Bot (free) A free app from TTS. There are 12 mazes of increasing complexity around which children write programs to program the bee-bot. Points are given as they do so. A must for all EYF and KS1 children. Ideally children will have had experience of programming a bee-bot in real life before or alongside this. Bee-Bot Pyramid takes this on further into an Ancient Egyptian setting again with 12 mazes.
	Daisy Dinosaur (free) A great little app for EYFS and KS1. Best to use it in *challenge mode* first where five simple challenges teach children how to use it. After that, *free-play mode* allows them to set their own challenges. Based on simple Logo programming and great for EYFS / KS1
	http://enabling-environments.co.uk/2015/08/12/explore-the-world-apps-to-support-learning-about-faraway-places-and-the-world/

Expressive Arts and Design

	Doodle Buddy (free) A good free app a fairly basic drawing / paining tool, includes different pen effects, stamps and some rather fun stencils. Backgrounds can also be used, either from the range of effects built into the app or from the iPad's camera roll.
	Brushes 3 (free) A great universal painting app used in many schools. Has an impressive array of features for a free app and has been designed exclusively for iOS. Painting is smooth and responsive — even with huge brush sizes.
	Quiver (free) There is a selection of colouring sheets to download & print. Once the pupils have coloured them, they simple go to the app and point the camera at the sheet to bring the images to life. Works better on Teacher's iPad due to in app purchases. Images can be mirrored using AirPlay on large screen.
	Mister Maker – Let's Make It! (£2.49) Inspired by the hit CBeebies TV show, children create art work in many forms and get creative as they experiment with hundreds of different colours, patterns, papers, things to glue, funny faces, bits & pieces and stickers from the Doodle Drawers…

	Little Fox Music Box – Kids songs – Sing along - £1.99 A sing-along songbook with more than 100 interactive elements in 3 songs and the little fox music studio where you can record your own songs!
	Tap A Tune (free) Animated cartoon characters who encourage the child to tap along to the nursery rhymes. Make up their own tunes and change the instrument sounds: piano, guitar, xylophone, even animal noises!
	Music Sparkles (free) Music Sparkles brings a world of music to your fingertips. From piano and xylophones to electric guitars - just tap and play. Enjoy spectacular sparkles created by your own music as you play. With the large collection of musical instruments, your little one will be able to develop their musical hearing and future talent!

Assessment

	Tapestry Mobile (free app but requires subscription to use) Tapestry Mobile is a companion application to our online learning journal website: http://eyfs.info/Tapestry/introduction.php You'll need to sign up for the Tapestry service before you can log into the Tapestry Mobile application. Tapestry Mobile allows practitioners to: - Collect observations of a single child, or multiple children - Upload observation photos and videos - Add assessments in line with the 2012 EYFS framework - Add CoEL assessments - Add Leuven Scales Observations can be added directly to the children's learning journeys or they can be queued for a manager's approval.
	Seesaw (free) This is a great platform that is going down really well in KS1 & 2 where it's about children compiling and sharing their own learning journal (EYFS style) with parents and through a self-contained class blog. Although it doesn't contain the statements you will need to evidence learning it does the rest and if you're looking for something to link up and through a primary school it's well worth a look. It's totally free (unless you want to pay for some of the more advance features) and would work perfectly well used by adults in a setting. There is a parent app too.
	2Build a Profile (see website for costs) A simple and fun way to log children's achievements against the EYFS profile and other curriculum targets throughout your school. Every child has an individual portfolio of achievements. Take photos for evidence, then tag them with children's names and early years targets, 2014 National Curriculum targets, or dozens of other frameworks.