

Factsheet:

# iPad and Tablet apps



## What are iPad and tablet apps?

Apps are applications that you can download onto your iPad or tablet, either for free or at a cost. They may be designed to give information or to provide fun ways to consolidate or practise new skills.

## Why use them?

- Technology can be very motivating both for young people and those who work with them. Many people are familiar with using iPads/tablets and downloading apps onto them.
- In comparison to some communication devices iPads/tablets are affordable and easy to get fixed.
- iPads/tablets are fairly robust - especially once special covers are put on them.
- You can use iPads/tablets and apps for:
  1. teaching and learning
  2. developing communication skills
  3. staying organised
  4. social interaction
  5. developing interests and managing emotions

The Communication Trust has produced some tips and ideas for using phones and tablets to help communication. You can download these [here](#)

It is important to remember that when using iPads/tablets to help with communication that you as an adult sit with the child to support their understanding and use of the learning within the app.

There is also a really good book produced by CALL Scotland about using iPads and tablets to support children's language and communication. Take a look at the download version [here](#)

## How do I know which apps would be appropriate for my child?

A list of some available apps are included on the following pages. These apps are not endorsed by I CAN, and the list is by no means exhaustive. However, we do hope that this will highlight the types of apps available and what skills they may help develop.

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### I CAN Help enquiry service

Phone 020 7843 2544 for a free call-back from a speech and language therapist

Email [enquiries@ican.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ican.org.uk) Visit [www.ican.org.uk/help](http://www.ican.org.uk/help)

The Talking Point website is the first stop for information about children's communication. The site has lots of free information and activities, a postcode search of provision and a free progress checker. [www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk)

The prices and availability will be subject to change.

App	Cost	Comments
<b>Social communication</b>		
Autism apps	Free	A resource for information about apps from the US
Social Skills Builder	Free sample	Video and multi-choice questions about social situations from the US
Scene & Heard	£50	Useful for your child to share news/information
Special Stories	£10	You can make your own social stories / visual prompts
Odd face out	Free	Spot different expressions or ages, same or different person
<b>Communication</b>		
Proloquo2Go	£130	Fairly flexible Augmentative and Alternative Communication app. Symbols are SymbolStix, not Picture Communication Symbols, but you can easily add photos/symbols from the internet. Enables children to make sentences to communicate.
Scene & Heard	£50	Can be used for making choices, giving news etc
Talking Tom 2	Free	Listens to and echoes speech in silly voice and has some comedy options.
Choice Pad lite	Free	Makaton (a simple type of sign language) app, using Makaton symbols (full app £75) <a href="http://www.mychoicepad.com">www.mychoicepad.com</a> .
Tap to Talk	Free sample	Allows your child to make up sentences but to make the most of it you need to purchase add ons. From the US <a href="http://www.taptotalk.com/">www.taptotalk.com/</a>
Grace	£20	Your child can create sentences using photos, symbols and coloured drawings. There is no speech output but the child touches the screen for the listener to read back the sentence. <a href="http://www.graceapp.com">www.graceapp.com</a>
Camera	Free	Very useful and engaging way to take photos. You can use photos as a way to start conversations about where you've been, who you've seen and what you've done, as well as letting your child know where you're going and who you're going to see.

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<b>Language</b>		
Special words	£10	Based on See & Learn language and reading resource from Down Syndrome Education International
Splingo	£2	Great for following instructions of increasing length and complexity which you can customise
Sound Touch		<a href="http://www.callscotland.org.uk/Common-Assets/spaw2/uploads/files/iPads-for-Communication-Access-Literacy-and-Learning.pdf">www.callscotland.org.uk/Common-Assets/spaw2/uploads/files/iPads-for-Communication-Access-Literacy-and-Learning.pdf</a>
Photo vocab	Free	Enables matching written word to picture, and sentence completion. It is possible to buy extended features.
Colourful semantics	£27.49	Based on Colourful Semantics approach to helping children's language skills to develop. Find out more at <a href="http://www.londonspeechtherapy.co.uk/colourful-semantics">www.londonspeechtherapy.co.uk/colourful-semantics</a>
Smartyears apps		A range of different apps to support various language skills including adjectives, sentence building and describing. <a href="http://smartyearsapps.com/language-skills/">smartyearsapps.com/language-skills/</a>
Brainy Skills apps		A selection of apps for practising word meanings and question words.
Super Duper Publications		Lots of different apps for practising a range of different language skills. <a href="http://www.superduperinc.com/apps/apple">www.superduperinc.com/apps/apple</a>
Picture Communication Symbol apps		A range of different apps for practising vocabulary, articulation and alphabet. <a href="http://www.mayer-johnson.com/apps">www.mayer-johnson.com/apps</a>
<b>Speech sounds</b>		
Captain Cal S		Enables your child to practice the 's' sound <a href="http://captaincal.ca">captaincal.ca</a>

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Articulation Scenes		Allows children to practice their sounds with a variety of engaging and fun activities centered around the cinema theme <a href="http://smartyearsapps.com/service/articulation-scenes">smartyearsapps.com/service/articulation-scenes</a>
Articulation Station		An app that provides pictures, sentences and stories for children to practise their speech sounds. <a href="http://littlebeespeech.com">littlebeespeech.com</a>
<b>Flexibility of thought / organisation</b>		
I see-quence	Some free	Allows you to personalise schedules and visual timelines using photos.
Special Stories	£10	You can record your own voice and make photo albums/talking books/stories. You can use it to explain tasks and share information/news.
Scene & Heard	£50	You can use this with switches and record video and voice. You can create interactive scenes for your child to engage with and is great to support story telling abilities.
Reminders	Free	This lets you create tick lists to support memory for children who are readers
Sleeps (lite)	Free	Allows you to set up the number of sleeps until an event
Fun countdown	Free	You can set up a countdown for events and personalise with photos
Work system	Free	Can be used to create written schedules for children who are reading
<b>Managing emotions</b>		
Autism Help 4 Me	Free	You can create a five point rating scale to help explain how your child is feeling. You can add in voice recording and photos
Fluid	Free	Calming music and interactive image
Behaviour breakthrough	Free	An ABA (Applied Behavioural Analysis) app where you practise responding to challenging behaviour. You calm or increase the child's agitation following outburst using ignoring & reinforcement

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## Where can I find out about other apps to support children's speech, language and communication?

As apps are constantly being developed, you might also find it useful to look at the following websites for more ideas:

[www.geekslp.com/](http://www.geekslp.com/)

[www.autismspeaks.org/autism-apps](http://www.autismspeaks.org/autism-apps)

[apps4stages.wikispaces.com/AppWheels](http://apps4stages.wikispaces.com/AppWheels) - for apps to support children with autism at different stages

[www.callscotland.org.uk/Common-Assets/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Wheel\\_Of\\_Apps\\_V1\\_0.pdf](http://www.callscotland.org.uk/Common-Assets/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Wheel_Of_Apps_V1_0.pdf)

- for apps related to dyslexia and reading difficulties

[www.callscotland.org.uk/Common-Assets/spaw2/uploads/files/iPads-for-Communication-Access-Literacy-and-Learning.pdf](http://www.callscotland.org.uk/Common-Assets/spaw2/uploads/files/iPads-for-Communication-Access-Literacy-and-Learning.pdf)

[keycomm.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/0/1/12014253/apps\\_for\\_learning\\_and\\_leisure\\_for\\_the\\_ipad.pdf](http://keycomm.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/0/1/12014253/apps_for_learning_and_leisure_for_the_ipad.pdf)

[www.communicationmatters.org.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/conference/cm2011/handouts/2011\\_wade\\_aac\\_apps.pdf](http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/conference/cm2011/handouts/2011_wade_aac_apps.pdf)

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