

Fun APPS for Summer Vacation Or Anytime!

Accessible for Children with CVI / Low Vision

Looking for tablet and/or phone APPS that might meet the needs of your child who has CVI and/or Low Vision? High contrast, vivid APPS that can be activated by the slightest of touches can visually engage your child and promote visual curiosity and an understanding of cause and effect. Children with limited or no hand movement can still derive enjoyment from gazing at these visually compelling APPS. You can capitalize on the portability of these devices and the ease with which they can be positioned for accessibility. We've included some APPS that are purely visual (touch the screen and paint a wild design), music based (touch the screen and manipulate color while music plays), and cause and effect (touch the screen and something happens, such as a ball is dropped or a bubble popped).

Here's more than a baker's dozen of APPS we think you and your child will love exploring:

Art of Glow by Natenai Ariyatrakool (free). Touch the screens and intense slinky like colors and/or shapes appear on a black background. Make adjustments in the options so you can control the intensity and speed of the glow.

Beatwave by collect3 (free). This is a fascinating music APP consists of colorful, moving squares that populate the screen as the user drags their finger across the screen. Be sure to customize for your child.

Boogie Bopper – the toddler music game by Tickle Tap Apps (\$1.99). Pick a song from a list and then touch each dot you see on the screen to create the melody. Play your song back afterwards. There is a white background with colorful dots and one dancing animal. Or choose to touch a screen with dots to work on eye-hand-coordination.

BubbleFREE by Orsome (free). This is an APP with simulates bubble wrap and pops with a sound when touched.

Bubbles by Hog Bay Software (\$.99). This APP has a black background and sounds of bubbles popping when touched on screen. You can even fill the screen with items that are not bubbles, such as discoballs (available for an additional \$.99) or colorful balloons. Create streams of bubbles, then pop them!

Fluidity by Byte the Bits LLC (free). This APP allows the user to manipulate water over different texture plates or images.

Fluidity HD by Nebulus Design (free). This APP simulates colored bubbling liquids controlled by touch. Add sparkle or not, change the speed, and colors. Even without touching the screen, there is an ocean of moving color to look at.

Heat Pad Lite – Relaxing Heat Sensitive Surface by Padadaz (free). Touch the screen and this APP simulates the heat of your hands/finger to create glowing thermal color imprints.

Jiggle Balls Studio by Funky Visions (free). Touch the screen to drop balls on the background. Change backgrounds, ball colors and sizes, ball bounce amount and sound effects. Be sure to fool around in the APP options to customize this the way your child will like it.

Magic Piano by Smule (free). Piano notes sound when glowing colors on the screen are touched. The background has radiating rays that move constantly which may be too visually complex for your child. For a music APP with absolutely no animation, you can try **Xylophone HD by Maloose Apps (\$1.99).** Yet another piano/xylophone/drums APP with a more visually complex background, but wonderful sound is **MusicSparkles by Kids Game Club (free).**

PlayButton by Aardustry LLC (free). This is a simple APP that allows the user to record a single message that will be played outloud when the user touches a large green arrow on screen. If your child can use a screen with multiple images and recordings, you could also consider **PlayBoard (\$4.99)** by the same developer.

Sound Shaker by Tickle Tap Apps (\$1.99). Select an instrument, a tow truck, or a barn and then touch the screen to make sounds with that “instrument”. The sounds are represented by balls on screen. Move or shake your iPad to bounce the balls and sounds around!

Spark (for Android) by Nelphy Games (free). There are several options for this APP, but the most unusual one pairs vibration with colorful lightning strikes.

HERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL TIPS AND TRICKS for using Tablets:

- For children with motor impairments, **try different positions** to facilitate maximum hand movement on the device. Consider side-lying which can be quite supportive for many children.
- **Control the “Brightness” on your device.** Screens on tablet are strongly backlit and can be too intense for some students. (On an iPad, go to “Settings” and then “Brightness and Wallpaper”).
- As with any light-based activity, **monitor the amount of time your child uses the device.** Ask your Teacher of the Visually Impaired for guidance.
- **Check the options for each APP.** You may be able to change the background, the colors, the speed and intensity of APPS.
- **Be cautious of repetitive strobe-like APPS if your child has a seizure disorder.**
- If your child really enjoys interacting with APPS on an iPad or tablet, **special mounts are available** for wheelchairs and trays from vendors such as Enabling Devices. **Does your child need a switch** to access the iPad? Yep, that exists too! Check RJ Cooper.
- When possible, **try the Lite or Free versions first.** But, then consider that it may be worth it to purchase an APP rather than use the Lite or Free version. **Full versions often have more features and you may have more ability to customize for your child’s needs.**
- **Remember, there are many, many APPS out there! You are bound to find something perfect for your child!** Some may be too busy to too simple, some too loud or too soft, some too intense and some too dull. Keep in mind that the APP market is always changing!

Have You Discovered Some Great APPS? Please Share Them with Us!

Gail Feld, BESB PreSchool TVI
860-602-4232 gail.feld@ct.gov

Gigi Whitford, BESB Special Services TVI
860-602-4185 gigi.whitford@ct.gov