









Progressive apps for early learning

What do you want to help your child do?

1. ...pay attention to music and notice things moving on screen








	<p>Top free pick...</p> <p>Musical night light (<i>baby tv</i>) – moving cartoon characters; choice of classical or relaxing music, timer function, so it plays for 1-3mins and restarts after this if child makes a sound.</p>
	<p>More like this...</p> <p>Baby classical HD Mozart or Chopin – good quality recorded classical music, with timer setting, but you need to purchase full app to get more than a few secs of music at a time</p>

2. ...get a reward for making sounds


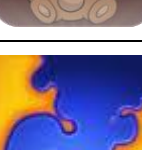

	<p>Top free pick...</p> <p>Furry friend. Cute, very realistic character repeats at a higher pitch what is said (if spoken loudly). Includes 2 nice free games where you can blow to spin a toy, or touch to burst his balloon. Pay extra for bubble blowing and feeding games.</p>
	<p>More like this...</p> <p>Sock puppets. Record and play back sounds or speech. Puppets lip sync to the recorded soundtrack.</p>
	<p>Crazy face monsters, Big, bright coloured monster face. Mouth and eyebrows move in response to sounds. Simple graphics</p>
	<p>Talking Tom. Repeats what is said, but also prompts interaction by talking and moving. Quite realistic animation</p>
	<p>Speak up. From sensory app house. Choose from a series of bright patterns which appear on black background in response to speech or sounds. The louder the sound, the bigger the pattern</p>
	<p>Tiga talk 3(campfire). Costs £2.99, but encourages child to practice 18 specific speech sounds to get rewards as part of a beautifully animated story about animals. Designed by SLTs and settings can be changed, so quite versatile.</p>

3. ...reach and touch anywhere on screen, or swipe across screen




NB: For all the following apps, it is good to enable [guided access](#), (Available on iPad iOS6 and above) which allows the learner to tap, swipe and touch the screen with lots of fingers, without exiting the app. It is also possible to restrict the functions of the app which they use.

	<p>Top pick for sounds and lights... Play piano – very simple - touch anywhere – screen filled with rainbow colour stripes and each has a different note</p>
	<p>More like this... Smule magic piano – pleasant piano sound and white on black light where touched. Repeating touch gives different notes making a well known tune. Best in a darker room.</p>
	<p>Music sparkles – rewards touch or swipe with either good musical quality xylophone, drums or voices and sparkly visual effects</p>
	<p>Electra (Sensoryapphouse) – Plasma globe light and sound effects for touch screen. <i>Plasma Globe</i> is similar, but more visually crowded screen</p>
	<p>Fun fireworks and I love fireworks lite. Both provide firework sound effects and bright visual rewards for touch.</p>
	<p>Kaleidoballs free. Touch the black screen to get a very bright coloured ball which fades and reappears. Swiping gives a trail of different coloured balls.</p>
	<p>sensory-light box by Cognable costs £1.99 but for that you get over 20 sound & vision effects and lots of control over settings, including voice or switch activation, duration of effects, etc. Also available for PC and eyegaze.</p>






4. ...touch, then touch again

	<p>BEST VISUAL REWARDS - Tap n see zoo is specifically designed for children with cortical visual impairment. A clear animal shape moves slowly around the screen and rewards touch with sound and getting bigger, then a new animal appears. Colours, shapes, size and speed of movement can all be controlled on the £1.99 version</p>
	<p>Gloop – touching the screen sets small balls of “gloop” in motion. Drag them & they collide in colour changing explosions. Touch again to change them back into static balls. The upgrade allows photos of faces or other favourite stimuli to be added as background</p>
	<p>Tap drums HD – Brief Drum or symbol sound on response to touching different areas of the screen.</p>



5. ...find & touch a target

	<p><u>Find me</u> – designed to encourage children with Autism spectrum disorder to point at people, rather than objects, by rewarding touching the faces with music and swirling patterns.</p>
	<p><u>Animal band</u> – Cartoon cats and ducks miaow or quack briefly when touched, with a backing track, for extra fun!</p>
	<p><u>touch trainer</u> - Music and visual reward when a button is tapped. The button gets progressively smaller. Caregiver can decide type of touch the app will "react" to and how many touches before reward. (Costs £2.99)</p>








6. ...learn to touch and drag things across screen (also sorting, matching, etc)

	<p><u>Tiny hands building, sorting</u> – Excellent for sorting size, shape and colours.</p>
	<p><u>TOCA kitchen monsters</u> (free) and others from TOCA app builders. Quite complex concepts. Very appealing – e.g. monsters make satisfying “yum” response when fed!</p>
	<p><u>Build it up (myfirstapp)</u> and <u>TP shapes</u> – shape sorting, drag and release skills.</p>
	<p><u>A Bee Sees</u> – Draw a line with your finger between the bee and a balloon and the bee flies (quite slowly) to pop the balloon.</p>
	<p><u>Clean up</u> (different roads to learning) – Sort photos by dragging into either a toy box, supermarket trolley or a wardrobe.</p>


7. ...control swiping skill

	<p><u>Fruit ninja</u> – swipe fruits as they fly past</p>
	<p><u>Awesome eats</u> – swipe cute veg across a moving screen, etc.</p>

8. ...learn skills for early writing/hand control

	<p>Colouring – Lots of different options for virtual colouring in</p>
	<p>Doodling - Baby painterHD lite or Doodle buddy – Versatile drawing app. Change pen, background colour, add pictures, stampers, etc. Use guided access to reduce number of functions.</p>
	<p>Touch and Write Write in virtual shaving foam, jelly and paint. Create your own list of words or use inapp list of high frequency words for the younger age group.</p>
	<p>Ready to Print by Essare Created by an OT, to teach pre-writing skills and build a strong foundation for beginning printers.</p>
	<p>letter school (lite) – Brilliant letter formation teaching app. Gently but firmly guides kids to correct formations and gives really motivating rewards (e.g.a train track appears and a train drives along the letter lines)</p>
	<p>ABC zoo – invites kids to trace letter outlines with pictures of zoo animals to colour.</p>
	<p>Big Trace – demonstrates how letters are formed, using dotted outlines and numbered arrows</p>

9. Other fine motor skill apps for more advanced learners, but too good not to include!!

	<p>Dexteria net – 4 fantastic apps for developing FMS, hand eye co-ordination and visual spatial relations (orientation of letters, numbers, etc). <i>letter reflex</i> is great for dyslexic kids and POV (point of view) would be great for lots of dyspraxic/dyslexic etc kids. Good video reviews on their website</p>
	<p>Minecraft, Angry birds, Temple run, subway surf, minion rush, cut the rope.... All apps which require FMS/Hand-eye co-ordination and which many 3-12 year olds are hooked on playing, so knowing about them has high social currency and motivation for mastery is high!</p>