

**Tatty's Apps:** Once again you have been letting me know about your favourite apps – thank you to everyone who has made suggestions and please keep them coming. Tell me what your child liked about them so I can pass that information on as well. Here are the latest offerings:

**Splat the Clown:**

Designed to encourage hand/eye coordination. Touch the screen anywhere and splat the clowns as they move across a target in the middle of the screen. You can choose from ripe fruit, rotten cheese, custard pies! Splat five clowns and get a reward. Really good fun!

**SpeechBox:**

An Award Winning iPad app designed to work with children with Apraxia of Speech, Autism, Down's Syndrome, and other Speech Language disorders. Parents can work with child and practice speaking simple words with engaging colourful pictures. You can get started as soon as you open the app as there are no complex menus to navigate through before being presented with the pictures. You simply tap on a box, and it displays its contents. Not only can you work with the over 700 beautiful pictures, but you can add your own pictures using the iPad's camera or photo library. So you can add pictures of friends, family and other common objects.

**Big Trucks:**

Fantastic for children who love trucks, fire engines, diggers etc! (I know quite a few!!) Touch the images to see the vehicles work. The images are clear and the dark background is ideal for younger users or those with eyesight difficulties and slower fine motor skill.

**Little Lost Penguin:**

Help the hungry penguin find his way home. This app involves watching and waiting for the right moment to overcome the obstacles – a killer whale, a polar bear etc with lots of opportunities for using new vocabulary.

**Dexteria Jr:**

Three highly structured tasks designed by an OT to help children practise their fine motor skills – for example 'Pinch the Pepper' encourages the pincer grip. There's also Trace & Erase and Squish the Squash!!

**Splingo!** - Great app for children with understanding of language. Voice asks child to identify different pictures and can be customised and made less or more challenging by using fewer or more words in each question.

**Finger Paint with Sounds** - Lovely app for children starting to use touch screen or children with additional challenges. App allows child to finger paint to music. Very rewarding.

**Peeping Musicians** - Intermediate app where a child has to tap the musician as he appears in the corner of the screen. Good for introducing games on the iPad.

**SoundTouch** - Fantastic app for all children. Covers animals, transport, objects and instruments and has matching sounds for each. George's favourite!

**Bubbles Magic/Fireworks Arcade** - Relaxing apps teaching use of touchscreen, cause and effect.

**Cookie Doodle** - Teaches sequencing, as the child has to make, bake and decorate a cookie in the right order. Great with adult support.

Special Words and Special Pictures: Two fantastic apps recommended by Sam Griffith. Both are basically DownsEd's See & Learn in app form - so obviously fantastic! You can match picture to picture, picture to word and finally word to word and much more. The Pictures app allows you to create a photo album of your child's favourite people and things and record names to match each photo. Lots to discover!

Sneezies: As recommended by Sophie Robson. Touch the screen to drop a burst of sneezing powder into the field of floating Sneezies and watch as they sneeze themselves out of their bubbles. Try to initiate a chain reaction to rescue as many Sneezies as you can. Sneezies features beautiful graphics, varied backgrounds, hilarious sound effects, and relaxed, soothing background music.

Big Bang Pictures and Big Bang Patterns: George has loved these 2 apps from a very young age - we originally bought them on disc. The Pictures App has 21 high contrast animated images and great sound effects designed to provide visual stimulation and to develop hand/eye skills for users with low vision and perceptual difficulties. The Pattern App has 12 varied animated pattern styles including tracking, tunnelling, rotating and sliding, as well as using flat, strong colours and sharp corners for maximum impact. All patterns are accompanied with music.

'If you're happy and you know it' app and 'Where's my Water' app, as recommended by Max Hoare. The first is a *Carefully designed game for children of all ages, it's a unique, new and high*

*quality production of the famous song. Fabulous animated activities, ideal for an engaging, educational, visually and audibly exciting experience. The second app* is a challenging physics-based puzzler complete with vibrant graphics, intuitive controls, and a sensational soundtrack. To be successful, you need to keep an eye out for algae, toxic ooze, triggers, and traps! Sue, Max's mum, says he has really enjoyed this app, which has evolved & has lots of different sections to it. Basically they are all puzzles & each level has to be worked on before moving onto the next.

## **Finger Paint with Sounds (Free)**

Explore touch with colour, sounds or music. An opportunity to finger paint without the mess! Finger Paint with Sounds offers a fun alternative to help children with special needs and others to practice their first interactions with a touch screen. Simply choose a colour and draw with music, fun sound effects or no sound at all.

## **Jungle Adventure**

An easy to play touch and single switch accessible game involving watching and waiting for the right moment to overcome the obstacles including a fiery furnace, a rolling log and all the usual jungle hazards. While easy to use, the graphics make this suitable for older learners to develop switch or touch timing skills and anticipation.

## **Five Little Aliens**

Learn the numbers from one to five with this easy to learn counting song. The song and animation stop at the end of each verse and you can use a switch or touch the screen to play the next verse.

Clear graphics, which include the numbers and words to sing along with and high quality voice over to encourage correct pronunciation of the number names. The follow-up activities give lots of opportunities to see numbers and hear number names.

## **Talking Parrot**

This game makes it great fun to practice speaking and listening. Using a microphone record the child's voice and then listen to the parrot repeat the words.

## **Snake and Ladders**

A computer version of the famous game – a great introduction to game playing, turn taking and following simple rules. Roll the electronic dice and then drag your counter around the board. Timeless!

### **Lickety Split.**

An extremely useful app, recommended by Lisa, Beau Garner's mum, this app helps self motivate children to perform tasks and receive a visual reward when complete. Tasks include putting on their pyjamas, brushing their teeth etc. Language can also be changed to accommodate children whose mother-tongue may not be English.

### **Matching Cards.**

A simple SNAP type game. A pair of cards start out face down and then one is revealed. The other then changes until a match appears and if your child hits the 'snap' button they get a reward. Fantastic for early cognitive development and focus.

### **Big Band Patterns.**

This app contains 4 specially created sets of animated patterns, each containing 12 different animations, accompanied by a choice of music or sound effects. A sensory stimulating and clear app ideal for our children.

### **Barn Door Four: Home Edition.**

This is a free app which introduces our children to the main app which can be bought. It is packed with different exercises – all of which start at 'Beginners' and move onto 'Advanced', so there is something for all abilities. It is really worth exploring this app and also get to know the characters who appear throughout to give children their reward. The app teaches:

Learning Skills

Communication Skills

Fine Motor Skills

Visual Performance Skills

Sequencing Skills

**Sounding Board (Free)** - Designed to assist the communication needs of those with speech and language difficulties by creating communication grids consisting of words, photographs and speech.

**Touch and Write** – An app which aims to help children with early handwriting featuring various mediums and customized word lists.

**Sentence Maker** – Interactive game that helps the child construct and complete their own sentences. Easy interface which makes it easy to use.

**Build a Word** – Easy spelling with phonics. Tap and drag letters to complete spelling activities. Audio and visual prompts help to correctly practice spelling and immediate sound feedback tells the user when a word is being misspelt.

**Bugs and Buttons** – Maths concepts through fine motor based games working on balance, counting, colours, shapes, letters etc.

And the newest DSE See and Learn apps.....

**Saying Words**  
See and Learn Saying Words provides simple activities that encourage the imitation and repetition of one- and two-syllable words. It includes eight sets of words, each starting with a speech sound that usually develops early in typical development (*b, d, m, p, y, n, w* and *h*).

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**Saying More Words**  
See and Learn Saying More Words continues to introduce target words representing a range of vowel-consonant combinations and vocabulary suitable for younger children and likely to follow developmentally from those introduced in Saying Words. It includes seven sets of words, each starting with a particular speech sound (*c/k, ch, f, g, r, t* and *v*).

**Saying Later Words**  
See and Learn Saying Later Words includes activities to practice six sets of one or two syllable words beginning with sounds that typically develop following those introduced in See and Learn Saying More Words (*sh, th, s, z, l*, and *j*).

### **Articulation Station Pro (£34.99)**

This app was created by a SLT and designed to help children and adults learn to speak more clearly. It includes a flashcard activity, matching, rotating sentences, stories, data tracking and feedback. Recommended to us by PSDS.

### **Letter School (£1.99)**

Teaches correct handwriting techniques through a fun multiple step approach from introducing letters and numbers through modelling and tracing to free hand independent writing.

### **Reading Comprehension Grades K1. (£1.49)**

Fun and interesting stories to help children practice and improve reading skills.

### **Special Stories (£13.99)**

Easy to use app that allows children and their parents to create stories using text, pictures and sound.

### **Park Maths HD (£1.49)**

Introduction to early maths concepts through levels of increasing difficulty.

**See and Learn Speech** has added two more apps for iPad – Saying More Words and Saying Later Words. See and Learn Speech is designed to teach children with Down's syndrome to hear and produce speech sounds (phonemes), to hear the differences between sounds (discrimination), to develop their speech sound system (phonology) and to produce clear speech. Some of the apps are also available for android tablet so check out Google Play.

**Signed Stories** is a best-selling app by ITV Broadcasting Ltd featuring animated children's stories with narration, music and fun learning games. It can be customized for children with special needs but does use BSL and not Makaton. Worth a look though!

**Dexterity** is an app which improves fine motor skills through a set of hand exercises in readiness for writing.

**Scribble Press** is a book creation platform allowing children to create and share their own stories with writing templates and drawing tools.

**Bugs and Bubbles** is a maths concept app of fine motor based games that progressively adapts to a child's own level: balance, counting, shapes, sorting, letters, tracking etc.

## **Tatty's Apps**

### **Counting Songs 1 and 2**

NEW Counting Songs 1 from Inclusive Technology provides ten fun and engaging counting songs with additional associated activities. The App is ideal for early years children, and students with a wide range of special educational needs and learning difficulties at a pre-literacy or early literacy level.

Counting Songs 1 offers stimulating cause and effect learning activities that engage and encourage early listening and language skills. Children can also learn about numbers from zero to five whilst counting along with the music and high quality voice over.

Switch access for one or two switches is included for users with motor difficulties who need switch input (switches can be connected via a Bluetooth switch interface). The clear, bright and uncluttered layout helps children with visual and perceptual difficulties to access the activities and focus on the learning objectives. The topics and songs can also provide additional appeal to older children who still need to work on early number concepts.

### **Custard Splodger**

Let's get messy with custard. A simple touch and switch accessible activity to encourage creative play. Custard Splodger offers a fun way to help children with special needs and others to practice and enjoy their interactions with a touch screen.

Touch the screen to squirt yucky custard everywhere. Custard Splodger offers an interesting problem solving element, where players can learn to wait to allow the custard splodger to fill up and provide a really big squirt.

The built-in options allow you to control the speed that the splodger moves across the bottom of the screen.

### **Memory Pairs**

Memory Pairs is a simple and accessible "matching pairs" type game, ideal for young children and learners with special educational needs. It has a clear interface for easy touch selection; simply touch the card to turn it over to see the picture and then try to find its matching pair. Memory Pairs can also be accessed using one or two switch scanning.

### **My day with 'Wh' words**

This app includes a social story for talking about one's day and a visual support for 'what, why, who, where and when' questions. Helps to develop Comprehension and conversation skills.

### **Word Wagon HD**

Four sequentially challenging games to learn letter names and sounds and spell words up to seven letters long.