

## Recommended Apps for Use in Early Years

I'm often asked which apps I'd recommend for use in the Early Years, particularly when new iPads are being purchased. This is no surprise as both the App Store and Google Play can seem like a minefield even to the most experienced EYFS practitioner!

So, if you have a mobile touchscreen device of any sort, here's my current selection of apps that I believe can play a valuable role in an Early Years setting, stimulating curiosity and opening up a world of opportunities. Most are 'free' or have a 'lite' version that you can try before you buy, which is always recommended. I also try to avoid anything with in-app purchases or lots of adverts (*although when played offline or in 'airplane' mode, the adverts can be avoided!*)

If you have a large screen (Smartboard, Clevertouch etc) in your setting, I highly recommend finding an app that will allow you to project what is on the tablet's screen onto the large screen – sometimes called screen mirroring or screen casting.

App (in alphabetical order)	Brief overview of how it can be used	Additional notes
Air Hockey Gold 	One of the best 'free' games I've come across and great for teaching eye-hand co-ordination as well as counting goals scored and coping with winning and losing!	
A.L.E.X 	Once children have practised moving each other around a space (perhaps using PE mats) then this is a great screen-based version to try out. Fits well with any space-themed work!	Pro version is paid
Bee-Bot 	Preferably only use after children have had some experience with a physical floor robot, but great problem solving app to develop perseverance.	
Blue-Bot 	If you have the actual Blue-Bots this is a great way to develop children's use of them and see what they are programming it to do.	
Book Creator 	This one has stood the test of time! Simple to use, great results and so many different opportunities to use it. Works well in a small group guided activity or for producing whole-class books with each child having their own page. Parents enjoy using it at home too!	Paid, but also a free web-based version
Busy Things 	Wide range of apps to explore from this company, I particularly like the one where the helicopter has to be directed to rescue items, but there are so many good things to explore...	Variety of paid for apps, but all good!
ChatterPix Kids 	Take a photo and make it talk – endless possibilities! Great for getting children speaking, storytelling and listening. Teacher can create own talking images to use as a hook or children can make their models come alive.	For use by teachers and children
Daisy the Dinosaur	A simple and fun way to introduce children to cause and effect as well as the idea of giving a sequence of instructions (algorithm) to make	

	Daisy do something. Can use in 'free-play' mode or 'challenge mode'.	
Green Screen by DoInk 	Make all sorts of topics and projects come alive! Great for dress-up days. Very cross-curricular and exciting to experiment with.	paid
Hairy Letters 	Clear pronunciation of letter sounds and captivating graphics. Useful for quick repetitive practice and handwriting.	
Hairy Phonics 	As above.	
Jigsaw Box Puzzles 	No more lost puzzle pieces! Great on a large screen for interactive/collaborative activity.	
Photo Collage Maker – fun Layout 	Great for photo editing and laying out a selection of images with stickers etc to enhance projects.	This is the child-friendly version of Pic Collage (rated 4+ rather than 12+)
Puppet Pals 	Great for small-group work supported by an adult for creating amazing stories. Encourages children to record their voices too.	Director's Pass and Puppet Pals 2: School edition is paid
Thisissand 	Relaxing, therapeutic and really beautifully done. Try it!	
Toca Band 	Great for experimenting with sounds and making musical rhythms – sometimes better with headphones as can become quite repetitive! Free websites that do a similar thing are <a href="#">Chrome Music Lab</a> (Kandinsky app especially) <a href="#">Blob Opera</a> and <a href="#">Boomwhackers</a>	Paid Lots of other Toca apps are worth exploring too
TooNoisy Starter 	Sound meter to introduce the idea of sensors and encourage children to find their whisper voice.	Pro version is paid for, but you can also register for free web version <a href="#">here</a>

Please get in touch if you know of any others that you'd recommend and I'll try to keep this updated.