

Apps for Communication & Learning

Getting Started with an iPad

	<p>Set up iTunes account Download apps - App store</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share apps on up to 5 devices on same iTunes account • Family Sharing: Settings, tap name, tap Set Up Family Sharing, and tap Get Started. • Check for updates – blue head icon (account)/scroll down & update all • Check for apps – blue head icon/purchased/not on this device
Setting Restrictions on the iPad:	<p>Go to: Settings/screen time/content & privacy restrictions- turn on content & privacy restrictions. Consider setting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iTunes & App store purchases –strict install/delete apps Allowed apps – consider restricting some apps Content Restrictions – consider setting Passcode change - restrict Account changes - restrict
<p>Guided Access: Guided Access limits the device to a single app and lets you control which features are available.</p>	<p>Go to: Settings/Accessibility/Guided Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tap Passcode Settings, then tap Set Guided Access Passcode. • Enter a passcode, then re-enter it. From here, you can also turn on Face ID or Touch ID as a way to end a Guided Access session. • Go to app you want to use – triple click home button to start guided access • App stays in guided access until triple click home button & enter passcode to exit

The apps listed in this resource are suggestions – there are many other apps available on the iTunes and Google Play stores. Prices listed are subject to change.

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AAC: AUGMENTATIVE & ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION iPad (Apple iTunes)

Green highlighted are basic communication apps


	NAME	DESCRIPTION	COST	PLATFORM
	Chatterboards AAC	Designed an inexpensive board for all ages. Levels provide a way to progressively builds up user's vocabulary. Fully customizable	free	iTunes
	Commboards by Dana Fridman	Touch series of symbols to make sentences. Tap sentence bar and whole message is read aloud. Add own photos	free, offers in-app purchases	iTunes
	CoughDrop by CoughDrop Inc.	Cloud based so can be used on any device- . Includes starter boards for different levels of communication	subscription \$10/month Purchase \$399.99	iTunes
	Go Talk Now by Attainment Co.	Three styles of communication pages: Standard, Express, and Scenes.	\$149.99	iTunes
	My First AAC by Injini NC Soft	Beginner app. 250 Icons organized by categories (greetings, food feelings etc.) that reflect children's natural speech development. Add own photos	\$24.99	iTunes
	Proloquo2Go by Assistiveware	Augmentative Communication: full feature app., 7000-word vocabulary -, settings to change size of symbols, add photos, keyboard for text to speech typing	\$349.99	iTunes
	Sign 4 Me by Vcom3D	Signed English Translator. Sign language instruction in 3D	\$12.99	iTunes
	Small Talk Conversational Phrases by Lingraphica	Words and phrases for conversation – geared towards adults who have had a stroke	free	iTunes
	Snap Scene Lite by Tobii Dynavox	Instant scene-based communication and language learning. Take a photo and tag it with recordings to let the child communicate. LITE version is limited to 10 scenes and does not allow the user to import scenes.	Lite – free \$69.99 paid version	iTunes
	SymbolTalk AAC Talker by Communication Boards App	Make your own symbols or choose from on-line library. Build flexible communication boards and sub boards. Change language	free	iTunes
	LetMeTalk: AAC Talker by Appnotize UGMedical	9,000 + images with voice support for images and sentences, unlimited creation of new categories and adding new images	free	iTunes

AAC: AUGMENTATIVE & ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION

Android (Google Play)





	Alexicom AAC by Alexicom	200 pre-made pages and over 7,000 images. Pages can be edited.	free	Google Play
	CommBoards Lite: AAC Assistant by Shmoontz	Some predefined communication boards. Unlimited creation of new categories with custom images and sounds. Natural pronunciation of sounds and easy to understand images	Free	Google Play
	CommBoards by Dana Fridman	Touch series of symbols to make sentences. Tap sentence bar and whole message is read aloud. Add own photos	\$31.99	Google Play
	CoughDrop AAC by CoughDrop	Includes starter boards for different levels of communication, and boards with large or small buttons can be personalized using symbols or photos.	\$400 or \$10/month	Google Play
	SymboTalk: AAC Talker by Communication Boards App	Make your own symbols or choose from on-line library. Build flexible communication boards and sub boards. Change language	free	Google Play
	Weave Chat AAC by Weave Chat LLC	13 different board types and over 2200 words. Symbols can be personalized by adding photos. Customizable voice. Can change voice, rate, and pitch.	free, must create an account to use	Google Play

PRINTABLE VISUALS FOR AAC








	NAME	DESCRIPTION	COST	PLATFORM
	Custom Boards Elite by Smarty Ears	Templates for creating printable visual displays such as routine charts or schedules - 11,000 symbols. Can also import photos.	\$59.99/year	App store

COMIC STRIP CONVERSATIONS:

- Comic strip conversations (Gray 1998) use comic strips to illustrate what characters say (in word bubbles) and what they think (in thought bubbles).
 - Child draws strips and decides what each character says/thinks
- Helps child understand another person's perspective, navigate a problem, clear up misunderstandings and practice using the right language for a situation






	NAME	DESCRIPTION	COST	
	Comic Life by plasq	Create speech balloons, photo filters, comic lettering, templates, shapes, shadows, and effects. Print, e-mail, or upload to Facebook and Twitter	\$6.99	iTunes --
	Comic Strip Creator by Isa Ali	Create expressive comic strip. Control characters gestures. Save and share your comics creation. Create own narrative, social situation, demonstrate conversation interactions.	Free	iTunes Google Play
	Strip Designer by Vivid Apps	Create non-animated comic strips using photos from photo album-Paint on photos, add text balloons, add symbols-great to develop graphic novels.	\$3.99	iTunes --
	Superhero Comic Book Maker by Duck Moose	Create personalized animated comic books with monsters and superheroes. Build comic strips and narrate the story. Includes 55 scenes and coloring pages and stickers.	free	iTunes --

CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS:

	NAME	DESCRIPTION	COST	PLATFORM
	Making Sequences by Zorten	Helps teach story order or to master the steps for completing a task-teach daily living skills or how to sequence stories-add own images and voice recording.	\$6.99	iTunes
	Conversation Builder by Mobile Education	Conversation presented in visual format. Students will learn when it is appropriate to introduce themselves, ask questions, make observations, and change the subject	\$34.99	iTunes
	Conversation Skills for ASD Kids by Happy Frog Apps	More than 140 situations for a wide variety of practice. Identify a friend's interests, choose a topic, join a conversation, continue a conversation.	\$14.99	iTunes Google Play
	Conversation Therapy by Tactus Therapy	Target expressive language, pragmatic, problem-solving, speech and cognitive communication goals- - Encourages discussion to define, remember, describe, feel, infer, predict etc. Great conversation starters	\$34.99	iTunes Google Play
	Social Learning Platform by Everyday Speech	Social skills videos, worksheet activities, online games etc. Subscription to videos, games & activities, and lessons. Complete guided therapy \$34.99/mth, videos only \$9.99/mth	\$34.99/mth \$299.99/yr	iTunes
	60 Story Starters by Super Duper	Story starter images combined with audio. Touch the screen to listen to a story starter then say or write what you think will happen next. Teach the beginning, middle and end, discuss how characters feel in a story.	\$2.99	iTunes
	TextingStory Chat Story Maker	Write conversations just like any messaging app -write both sides of the conversation and then video is automatically generated. Use to practice social skills: Opening/greeting, response, comment, turn taking etc.	\$ free - 29.99 In app purchases	iTunes Google Play

EMOTIONS:

- **Theory of Mind** –being able to infer and understand other’s thoughts, intentions, and feelings (Baron-Cohen)
- Some individuals don’t have theory of mind which is called **mind blindness**. They may think "If I can't/don't feel it or perceive it, then others can't/don't feel it or perceive it" (or vice versa). They do not realize – “what I do affects those around me”
- Some individuals may focus on what is said but not nonverbal or facial expressions
- First teach four basic emotions – happy, sad, mad, scared
- Label emotions and use everyday moments to teach – scraped knee “Oh that must hurt. You must feel sad”

	NAME	DESCRIPTION	COST	PLATFORM
	Autism Emotions by Model me Kids	Music and photo slideshow to teach emotions. Each photo has audio narration.	free	iTunes ---
	Autism iHelp Emotions by John Talavena	Targets basic abilities in labeling, differentiating, and sorting everyday human emotions.	\$4.99	iTunes Google Play
	Learn with Rufus: Emotions by Rufus Robot	Help children learn facial expression that correspond to happy, sad, angry, afraid, and surprised. Choose the symbol that matches the photo.	\$4.99	iTunes
	Kidoko My Emotions	Storybook about emotions narrated by a child. Encourages storytelling and interaction – memory game at end of story.	free	iTunes Google Play
	Touch & Learn Emotions by Innovative Mobile Apps	This app focused on helping kids read body language and understand emotions by looking at gorgeous pictures and figuring out which person is expressing a given emotion.	\$1.99	iTunes ---

LISTENING & LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION:

	NAME	DESCRIPTION	COST	PLATFORM
	Advanced Comprehension by Tactus Therapy Solutions	Three activities help to understand sentences, follow directions, and improve language processing. For adults and older children.	\$24.99- \$34.99	iTunes Google Play
	Autism iHelp – WH Questions by Kids iHelp	Vocabulary teaching aid. Through routine learning, children learn labeling of concepts. WH?'s require incorporating more abstract thought and generalization regarding the learned concepts	\$4.99	iTunes Google Play
	Functional Listening by Virtual Speech Centre	Listening exercises with everyday messages at different settings such as store, doctor's office, school, etc. The users will listen to various messages and take a comprehension quiz at the end of each message.	\$19.99	iTunes ---
	Kangaroo Island by Super Duper Pub	Learn to name and classify 336 items in 15 different categories -animals, bathroom, clothing, colours, furniture etc.	\$9.99	iTunes Goggle Play
	Listening for Absurdities by Super Duper	Illustrated picture flash cards (plus audio for each card). Practice listening, reasoning, and problem-solving skills as student tells what makes each card absurd. For example: "The mother hen took good care of her baby octopus	\$4.99	iTunes Google Play
	Listening Power Series by Hamaguchi Apps	Listen for descriptions, listen for directions, listen for grammar & meaning, listen for stories with pictures & listen for stories without pictures. Different versions for different grade levels	\$19.99	iTunes ---
	School of Multi Step Directions by Virtual Speech	Students follow increasingly longer multi step directions to improve auditory comprehension and listening skills. Directions take place in a school setting – breaks direction into steps, repeat direction,	\$34.99	iTunes Google Play
	WH Questions at Home by Super Duper	Ask the student a WH question. Provides a picture as a visual cue. For example: "Who is your neighbor?" "Where do you keep your clothes?"	\$399	iTunes Google Play
	Categories Learning Centre by Smarty Ears	Up to 4 players-sort dissimilar objects, sort similar object, were does it go, category naming, category selection etc.	\$14.99	iTunes







Virtual Speech Centre has a variety of apps auditory processing, following directions

Super Duper Publications has a variety of apps for comprehension

MAKE YOUR OWN BOOKS:







Teach social skills, grammar, creative writing etc. Take photos and import to the book, add text to tell a story and audio recording. A great way for a child to share with others about their interests.

- Use for problem solving such as perspective taking, social issues, executive function challenges.

	Book Creator by Red Jumper	Add text, photos, video, and music. Encourage language organization, executive function, concepts etc. Sketch out concepts being taught such as zones or comic strip conversations.	\$4.99	iTunes ---
	Draw & Tell by Duck Duck Moose	For younger children. Described as a “tech-d up colouring book. Choose a photo from your camera and then draw on it. Record over it to create a movie and share. Practice narrative skills.	free	iTunes
	My Story Kids' Storybook Maker By My Story, LLC	Create and share storybooks in movie and e-book format by adding drawings, photos, and stickers. Record your voice on every page and share your story with friends, family, and classmates!	free	iTunes ---
	Pictello by AssistiveWare	Create visual stories and talking books. Each page in a Pictello Story can contain a picture, a short video, up to ten lines of text, and a recorded sound or text-to-speech using natural sounding voices.	\$24.99	iTunes ---
	Speech Journal by Custom Voice Recorder	Customizable voice recorder that lets you pair recorded message with imported images. Create picture sequences, schedule, direction, speech practice, social stories, sample conversation etc.	\$4.99	iTunes
	Story Creator - Easy Story Book Maker by Innovative Mobile	Create beautiful story books containing photos, videos, text, and audio. Email story	free	iTunes ---





SCHEDULES:

- Schedules can be helpful for transitions, staying on task and complying with unpreferred activities. These visuals provide structure and predictability and hold attention

	NAME	DESCRIPTION	COST	PLATFORM
	Choiceworks by Bee Visual	Three boards: Schedule, Waiting, and Feelings. Schedule for completing daily routines, waiting board to understand length of time required to wait and feelings board to understand what to do. Timer	\$24.99	iTunes
	Choiceworks Calendar by Bee Visual	Picture-based learning tool that helps children learn what is happening day-to-day throughout each month. Count Days Until an upcoming event, speaks the daily schedule, Built-in visual timer, Set alarms	\$9.99	iTunes
	DayCape by Daimonic Creations	Caregivers set up visual schedules. Notifications remind the child of their activity. Caregiver can send activities directly to the child's app.	\$8.99- \$25.99	iTunes Google Play
	FTVS HD - First Then Visual Schedule HD By Good Karma	First Then boards, Visual schedules Task analyses, Social stories, Choice boards, Video models	\$14.99	iTunes
	Meminder by CreateAbility Concepts	MeMinder is a talking pictures to-do list and video modeling tool - provides reminders, sequencing and how to perform tasks at home, work, or school.	\$399.99	Google Play
	Visual Schedule & Social Story by MeshTech	Built-in Visual Schedules and Social Stories but can also add unlimited personal schedules and stories. Option to upload own images	\$7.99	iTunes Google Play










SOCIAL STORIES:

- The goal of a social story is to increase a child's understanding of a social situation.
- The story makes the child comfortable about the situation and suggests appropriate responses (behavior and language)
- This is helpful for the child who becomes anxious or confused so they learn about correct social behavior or appropriate language
- Practice social stories when calm so together you can talk out, plan and practice for the social situation
- Write the social story in the first person.
- Social stories help make rules implicit to help the child follow invisible rule.






	NAME	DESCRIPTION	COST	PLATFORM
	Pictello by Assistiveware	Talking photo album- take photos and add text and audio to make a story. Great way for child to share about an experience – encourages social skills, storytelling and recall about events. Also, can be used for social stories or choices or even steps to making recipe or add video of recipe.	\$19.99	iTunes
	Potty Training Social Story by Touch Autism	An interactive social story about potty training that is customizable for boys or girls. The app also includes a visual schedule for using the potty.	\$3.99	iTunes
	Social Stories Creator by Touch Autism	Create and share social stories, visual schedules with pictures, recordings, and text. Stories can be made in any language. Download pre-made social stories for a variety of skills. Printable	\$29.99 for complete package or buy individual stories	iTunes
	My Social Story by New England Apps LLC	Create custom video social stories. Add photos from camera roll, take photos, or choose from stock photos. Voice over and text can be added to each page. Story can be shared with others as an HD video file.	free	iTunes

SPEECH/ARTICULATION APPS:





- Use articulation/ speech apps to continue to practice speech skills learned in speech therapy. In most apps, choose which speech sound to practice and pictures with those sounds will be presented. Some apps allow audio recording of practice.

	NAME	DESCRIPTION	COST	PLATFORM
	Apraxia Farm by Smarty Ears	Apraxia of speech is a speech disorder that affects the motor skills associated with speech. Three activities, over 600 words. Sound modelling, voice record.	\$39.99	iTunes
	Articulate Plus by Smarty Ears	1000 images to for working on English consonant sounds at the word, phrase, and sentence level. Designed by a Speech Pathologist.	\$69.99	iTunes
	Articulation Scenes by Smarty Symbols	Like seek & hide game for articulation. 4 modes and 70 scenes. Find the hidden item – tap and say it -	\$69.99	iTunes
	Articulation Station Hive by Little Bee Speech	Flashcards or matching games for speech sounds in beginning, middle and end positions of words. Comes with one free sound.	Free version \$129.99	iTunes
	Speech Therapy for Apraxia - by Blue Whale	Provides choices of different sounds to target and moves through a progression of levels that challenge motor planning for speech.	\$12.99	iTunes Google Play
	Talking Tom by Out Fit 7	Child speaks and Tom repeats their sounds/words with a funny voice. Encourages kids to practice their speech and language skills. Cause and effect provide motivation.	free	iTunes
	Wacky Selfie by Erik x. Raj	450 sound specific stickers than can be placed on top of a selfie photo -turns it into a wacky one. Targets S, Z, R, L, S/R/L blends, SH, CH & TH.	\$6.99	iTunes
	What's the Pic Articulation by HomeSpeechHome	A target picture is displayed with a varied number of times the player must say it. Each time the word is said, a star lights up.	\$4.99	iTunes
	Word Flips by Super Duper Publications	Teaches functional vocabulary words (for example, "hi," "go," and "bye") while practicing up to three repetitions of sound sequences.	\$39.99	iTunes





TEXT TO SPEECH APPS:

	Natural Reader Text to Speech	Reads text, PDF, webpages, eBooks aloud. Adjust speaker speed.	Free trial Subscription \$9.99/month	iTunes Google Play
	Predictable by Therapy Box	Featuring a world class software which learns from your patterns of use and thereby predicts what you will type next in your message easily and accurately.	\$199.99	iTunes Google Play
	Proloquo4Text by Assistiveware	Customizable single screen layout with quick access to personal phrases, word and sentence prediction and other effort-saving features. Free voices in 18 languages are included to enable natural-sounding communication.	\$119.99	iTunes
	Speech Assistant AAC	Categories to organize your phrases. • History for quick access to previously typed phrases. Abbreviations expansion to reduce keystrokes. Option to select emoji or choose images from your Photo Library on the buttons.	\$29.99	iTunes Google Play
	Talk for Me Text to Speech by Darrin Altman	Type in main text area or tap one of the main custom buttons. Add custom phrases. Keyboard shortcuts and predictive text.	free	iTunes

TIMERS:

	NAME	DESCRIPTION	COST	PLATFORM
	Children's Countdown Timer by Fehners Software	Watch as the timer runs from green to amber to red, helping the child understand that time is running out. A fun picture is slowly revealed as the time runs down and when the time is up the child is rewarded with an exciting sound and the picture spins.	\$3.99	iTunes
	Fun Time Timer by Codigo	On screen timer but also a line timer with snail crawling across the screen to show how time is passing.	free	iTunes
	Happy Kids Timer – Morning & Evening Chores by Kids Smart Zone	Helps child complete their morning or evening routine easily and on time. This is a chores app for kids and a visual timer that can serve also as a tooth brushing timer. It utilizes a smart incentive program with award and printable certificate.	Free In app purchases	Google Play
	Time Timer by Time Timer	Set the time to the length of activity – as times elapses the red portion gets smaller to show the elapse of time.	free	iTunes

WRITING/NOTE TAKING:

	NAME	DESCRIPTION	COST	PLATFORM
	AudioNote 2–Voice Recorder by Luminant	Links the notes taken to the audio recorded when notes written – use for class, project, during a meeting etc.	\$free with in app purchases	iTunes Google Play
	Clicker Writer Crick Software	Type into the word processor, and a range of speech options encourage child to review what they have written. Word prediction	\$199.99	iTunes
	Dragon Anywhere by Nuance Communications	Easily dictate documents of any length, edit, format, and share them directly from	Subscription \$149.99/yr	iTunes Google Play
	Inspiration Maps by Inspiration Software	Graphic organizer – organize ideas in graphic form then convert to an outline to export - create diagrams, maps and organizers to, plan, and organize writing.	\$13.99	iTunes
	iWordQ by Quillsoft Ltd	In Writing mode, - word prediction, abbreviation-expansion, and speech feedback features. Spell-check and dictionary access.	\$29.99	iTunes
	Notability by Ginger Labs	Writing app but can also sketch ideas, import photos or clipart, annotate documents using colourful ink. Import forms, contracts, worksheets, documents, presentations, and even books.	\$19.99/yr	iTunes
	OneNote by Microsoft	Note taking app – dictate notes or use immersive reader feature for text to speech – change speed, text size, highlight part of speech	\$free	iTunes Google Play
	Otter Transcribe Voice Notes	Automated meeting notes for Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams and more. Records and takes notes in real time.	\$16.99/ mth	iTunes Google Play
	Pages by Apple	Word processing app. Add text, images, shapes, and more. Use advanced features like change tracking, comments, and highlights to easily review changes in a document. Great for class assignments.	free	iTunes
	Speechify Text Reader by Speechify	Reads text out loud – articles, PDFS, physical books. Works on phone or tablet. Great for those who struggle to read or visually impaired.	Free & in app purchases	iTunes Google Play

Recommended App Companies: Search for these companies by name to see listings for their great educational apps.

iTunes	Google Play
Toca Boca	Toca Boca
Duck Moose	Duck Moose
Khan Academy	Khan Academy
Super Duper Publications	Super Duper Publications
Starfall	Starfall
Tactus Therapy	Tactus Therapy
Intellijoy	Intellijoy
Virtual Speech Centre	iTooCh
Mobile education store	TipiTap
Hamaguchi Apps	Special iApps
Touch Autism	

www.bestappsforkids.com	App reviews and recommendations.
www.ipadacademy.com	Tutorials and tips for using iPad
Blog.momswithapps.com	Reviews of family friendly apps
www.appraven.net	Discover apps and browse sales.recommendations.